



VILLAGE NEWS

December 2019

For the parishes of
Charlton Musgrove, Cucklington
and Stoke Trister with Bayford



2019 Christmas Tree Festival

See back page for details

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Welcome to December's newsletter.
If you have any local landscape or
event photos for use in the newsletter,
please email them to me at
jo@jltraining.co.uk.

Copy date for January's issue is
Wednesday 18th December 2019.

Wishing you all a very Happy
Christmas. The Editor



Waiting in Wonder

The season of Advent starts this year on Sunday Dec 1st, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for Christmas. This ancient tradition looks joyfully back at God's first incarnation on earth in the person of Jesus Christ and expectantly forward to His bodily return some time in the future.

Advent's focus is on waiting in anticipation and wonder. It is like a holding of the breath, waiting for something wonderful to happen. It has traditionally been seen as a very spiritual time, a time to slow down, to focus on the joy of being. It is a time to look up and gaze at the dark starry skies in wonder. How very different from our culture's urge to speed up, to party and to shop until we drop!

But in the busyness of the next few weeks, let's take a few moments to rest awhile in the mystery Christmas celebrates - the Son of God humbling Himself to come among us as a man to lift us up to become one with the living God.

'Pax' by DH Lawrence

*All that matters is to be one with the
living God
To be a creature in the house of the God of
Life.
Like a cat asleep on a chair
At peace, in peace
And at one with the master of the house, with
the mistress,
At home, at home in the house of the
living,
Sleeping on the hearth, and yawning before
the fire.
Sleeping on the hearth of the living world
Yawning at home before the fire of life
Feeling the presence of the living God
Like a great reassurance
A deep calm in the heart
A presence
As of the master sitting at the board
In his own and greater being,
In the house of life.*

May you and your loved ones be filled with Advent wonder and Christmas joy and peace!

Revd Rosy Ashley

From the Organ Bench

As a bit of light relief this month as Christmas approaches, let's look at what has always seemed to me to be one of the silliest carols ever written – *I saw three ships come sailing in, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.....*

Having established who was in those ships all

three – *Our Saviour Christ and his lady* (presumably his mother Mary), we might well wonder why it needed three ships: and anyway what happened to Joseph?

It then asks *Pray whither sailed those ships all three?* to which the next verse answers: *O, they sailed into Bethlehem.* I'm tempted to respond, to the same tune:

*Now that is strange, it seems to me,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
As Bethlehem's not on the sea,
It's nowhere near the sea.*

Many of our traditional carols, and their tunes, are mediaeval in origin. Some were handed down orally from generation to generation, some printed on broadsheets which had to be hidden during the Puritan purge of the mid-17th century. They were more formally collected and arranged in the 19th and early 20th centuries: *I saw three ships* appears in a collection by William Sandys, published in 1833. And in this process there was often introduced a mixture of legend and artistic licence.

Some believe that the 'three ships' were those which are reputed to have carried the bones of the three wise men or Magi (of the Epiphany story) to Cologne cathedral in the 12th century (why Cologne? – and that's not on the sea either, although it is on the river Rhine). Others say that the ships are ships of the desert, i.e. camels: but then how could Jesus and his mother have been in the ships? Camels are normally vegetarian – and even if they weren't in the ancient world, I don't think that God's divine purpose included his Son coming to earth and being eaten by a camel.

Ancient literature is full of this sort of thing. In Homer's *Odyssey*, Odysseus drifts off course to the land of the Laestrygonians, probably no further north than Sicily, where 'a sleepless man could earn two wages, as nightfall and dawn are so close together'. There's some influence there of travels further north, the result being graphic if unlikely.

So it is with carols like *I saw three ships*. A muddled mixture of stories, quite possibly – but still quite fun to sing if we're not too purist about the logistics. And it provides an excuse – given that organists are beyond redemption anyway – for a little irreverence.

David Duvall

CHURCH SERVICES

DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020

Sun 1 st Dec	09:30	Café Church	CMMH, Charlton Musgrove
	09:30	Holy Communion	St John's, Charlton Musgrove
	18:00	Evening Communion	St Lawrence's, Cucklington
Sun 8 th Dec	09:30	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Stoke Trister
Sun 15 th Dec	09:30	Morning Praise	St John's, Charlton Musgrove
	18:00	Evensong	St Lawrence's, Cucklington
	18:30	Advent Service	St Andrew's, Stoke Trister



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Sun 22 nd Dec	09:30	Christmas Quiet Hour	St John's, Charlton Musgrove
	16:00	Family Carols by Candlelight	St John's, Charlton Musgrove <i>(or St Stephen's, if open)</i>
	18:30	Carols by Candlelight	St Lawrence's, Cucklington
Mon 23 rd Dec	18:30	Carols by Candlelight	St Andrew's, Stoke Trister
Tues 24 th Dec	16:00	Christmas Eve Crib & Christingles	St John's, Charlton Musgrove
	23:30	Midnight Communion	St Andrew's, Stoke Trister
Weds 25 th Dec	10:30	Christmas Day Communion	St Lawrence's, Cucklington
	10:30	Christmas Day Family Service <i>(followed by short communion)</i>	St John's, Charlton Musgrove
Sun 29 th Dec	09:30	Benefice Worship with Carols	St Andrew's, Stoke Trister
Sun 5 th Jan	09:30	Holy Communion	St John's, Charlton Musgrove
	18:00	Evening Communion	St Lawrence's, Cucklington
Sun 12 th Jan	09:30	Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Stoke Trister
Sun 19 th Jan	09:30	Morning Praise	St John's, Charlton Musgrove
	18:00	Evensong	St Lawrence's, Cucklington
	18:30	Evensong	St Andrew's, Stoke Trister
Sun 26 th Jan	09:30	Holy Communion	Bayford Village Hall



Events

December 2019 & January 2020

Thu 5 th Dec	10:00-12:00	Bayford Coffee Morning	Red Brick House, Stoke Lane
Fri 6 th Dec	10:30-12:00	Charlton Musgrove Coffee Morning	Charlton Musgrove Village Hall
Sat 7 th Dec	09:30	Village Hall Cleaning	Cucklington Village Hall
Fri 13 th Dec	19:00 onwards	Scrabble Evening	Cucklington Village Hall
Fri 13 th Dec	19:00-21:00	Christmas Tree Festival 	Cheese & Wine <i>with sneak preview</i>
Sat 14 th Dec	10:00-16:00	Christmas Tree Festival 	Christmas Tree Festival & singing of carols <i>(15:00-16:00)</i>
Sat 14 th Dec	19:30	100 Club Christmas Party & Pop Up Pub 	Cucklington Village Hall
Sun 15 th Dec	13:00-16:00	Christmas Tree Festival 	Christmas Tree Festival & advent service <i>(18:30-19:30)</i>



CHARLTON MUSGROVE

www.charltonmusgrove.org

E: cmvillagehall@gmail.com



100 Club winners November Draw
No 7. Miles & Bex Kimber-Danger
No 66. Lindsay Christie



COFFEE MORNING

Friday 6th December 10:30-12 noon in the Village Hall.

Come along and join us for Mulled Wine and mince pies plus our usual real coffee and homemade cake.

Please note, we are meeting earlier this month and hope to start off the Christmas festivities with our friends and neighbours before the "Christmas Rush" begins!

No Coffee Morning in January. But we look forward to seeing you on Friday 21st February 2020.

Thank you for all your support this year. Our Best Wishes for the Festive Season to you all.

From the Coffee Morning Team.



Short Mat Bowls at Charlton Musgrove Village Hall

We meet on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month from 2.00pm until 5.00pm. Come along for a laugh. We are a friendly non-competitive group. Tea and Coffee will be served. Please bring along smooth soled shoes to wear for the sake of the mats.

Brian and Stella Wheeler - 07530 297964



Charlton Musgrove Defibrillator

Barrie & Ceri Izard	01963 34144
David Amblin	01963 31012
Neal Sizmore	07795 817460

First Responder Contact Numbers

Custodians	
John Ball	01963 31046
Robert Parker	07769 913475



CUCKLINGTON
St Lawrence's Church
www.cucklington.org.uk
Church Warden - Pip Loxton
T: 01747 840947



SCRABBLE

The next scrabble evening will be on Friday 13th December in the AMMH, starting at 7pm. If you are interested in finding out about joining the scrabble group, please ring Gaye on 01747 840450.

POP UP PUB & 100 CLUB XMAS PARTY!

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER

 Join us for a festive pop up pub incorporating the annual 100 Club Christmas Party, starting at 7.30pm in Cucklington Village Hall on Sat 14th Dec. A great opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. All welcome, cash bar, bring a plate of festive food if you fancy!

COFFEE MORNING

There will be no coffee morning during December



FLOWER LADIES and anyone with a spare minute at this busy time of year! This year we will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday 21st December from 10 am onwards, and would be very grateful for any help, greenery, berries and/or coffee! JMS

VILLAGE HALL CLEANING Saturday 7th December, starting at 9.30 am. All most welcome, and all equipment supplied.



Carol Singing around Cucklington Village

Sing carols under the stars!
5.15pm start outside Hale Farm,
then up School Hill, along Babwell
Road, finishing at Aislaby
at 6.30pm (see below)
on Saturday 21st December
For more information email:
gordonzapiewski@hotmail.co.uk
ALL WELCOME!



CAROLS AT AISLABY

Once again, Chris Holloway and family have kindly invited Cucklington villagers to gather round his piano in the hall to sing Christmas Carols, enjoy a glass of hot punch and a mince pie on

Saturday 21st December
from 6.30pm-7.30pm

If you would like to come please email, call or message karen@willowbarns.com
07740 466633

Church Warden: Pip Loxton Contact Telephone number 01747 840947
The Arthur Morison Memorial Hall, Cucklington – Management Committee
Committee members include: Campbell Dunford (Chairman) 01963 34220

Hall bookings should be made through Jenny Rawlings (01963 3320) who also holds the keys. If not available, ring Brian Trueman (07398 980487), or Di Hammet (01747 840770) Website: www.cucklington.org.uk



STOKE TRISTER WITH BAYFORD

www.stoketristerbayford.net
E: web@stoketristerbayford.net



David and Sue Jordan left the village after many years in Stoke Trister, first at Frith and then at Mitchells farm. Sue Jordan was a physio at the BRI and she designed Pudsey Bear for the children's ward. It has subsequently been used as the logo for Children in Need. Well done Sue! We wish them well.

We welcome Jemima Green, who has moved to Mitchells farm and also Anna Jackson at Puckles. Welcome also to Elizabeth and Ian Granville-Miller who have just moved into the village.

We hope they will all be very happy here.

Dorothy Abbot died on November 3rd after living in Bayford for many years. We send our condolences to her family.

St Andrew's Church
Special thanks to Rita Hoddinott for decorating the church so beautifully for the Remembrance weekend.

BAYFORD COFFEE MORNINGS

Thursday 5th December from 0 am – 12 noon - Christmas Coffee Morning at The Red Brick House, Stoke Lane, home of Maggie and Marcus Giles. There will be a Christmas Raffle instead of a bring & buy, so please bring a raffle prize.



NB No Coffee Morning in January. The next one will be on **Thursday 6th February 2020**. Please note there will be **NO** Bring & Buy next year, but the price of coffee will go up to £1.50, to include biscuits. This helps to pay for outings etc.

BAYFORD VILLAGE LUNCH

There will be no Village Lunch in December.



Worship in Bayford Village Hall

A number of Bayford people used to enjoy meeting in the Village Hall to worship when it was Bayford Mission Hall. It is also easier for some to get to than St Andrew's Church, so we thought we'd open up the Hall on Sunday mornings once a month for worship, starting on **Sunday 26th January 2020**

At the moment, we are thinking of doing Holy Communion but let us know what kind of worship you'd like: Hymn Singing | Quiet Space | Bible Study | Holy Communion | Café Church | Creative Worship | Morning Prayer
Sunday 26th January will start at 9.30am but we could start later or earlier in future.

All ideas welcome! Please email: rosyashley@hotmail.com

Letter from the Right Reverend Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells
For Parish Newsletters - December 2019

So it has been decided. There is to be a General Election on 12 December and much has been made of the fact that this is the first December election since 1923. Things could be worse however, as the 1885 General Election took place over three weeks from 24 November to 18 December 1885. It was nonetheless an important milestone in social history, as it extended voting rights so that for the first time a majority of adult males could vote and most constituencies returned only a single member to Parliament. These were quite radical developments and at that election large numbers of men voted for the first time. It saw the Liberals, led by Gladstone win the most seats, but not an overall majority, with the Irish Nationalists holding the balance of power and the Unionist MPs having a significant voice. The 1885 election also saw the first socialist party, the Social Democratic Freedom participate.

So significant was this election that my predecessor, Bishop Arthur Hervey, wrote an open letter on 2 October 1885 suggesting that 'all Christian subjects of the Queen had a duty of special prayer to Almighty God that He will be pleased to guide the minds of the Electors to make such a choice of representatives as shall tend most to the glory of God, the honour and welfare of our Sovereign, and the happiness of the people.' In His view Parliament was responsible for establishing 'peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety' and the 'welfare of all people.' In asking people to pray, as well as to vote, he made it clear that whilst people would have different 'political leanings' that they needed to come together to pray for the 'peace and happiness of the nation at large'.

I think we all know that this General Election before us now will similarly be critical in helping to determine the future of the United Kingdom – at least for the immediate future. In writing this article I am therefore seeking to follow Bishop Arthur Hervey by reminding us all of the responsibility we have to pray for our country and to work with all people for the welfare and the well-being of everyone.

With my prayers and very best wishes,

The Right Revd Peter Hancock
Bishop of Bath and Wells



POP UP PUB

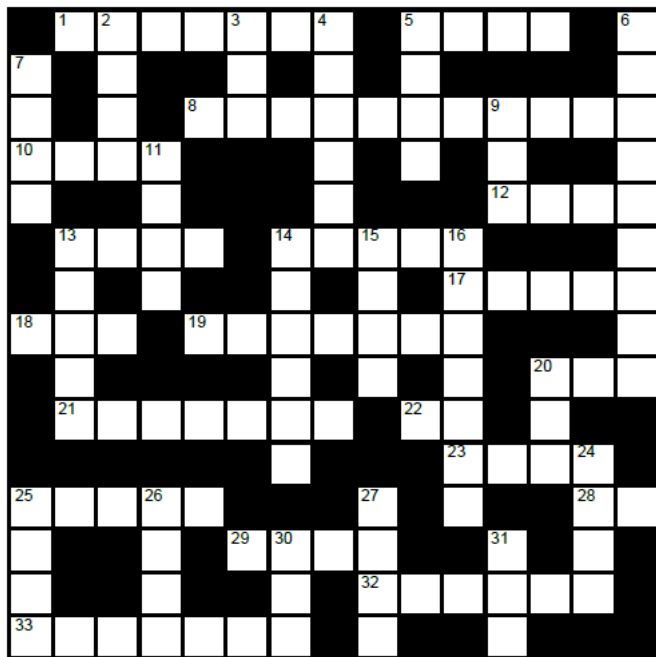
incorporating the annual

**100 CLUB
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Join us for a festive drink and catch up
on village news – all welcome!

**Saturday 14 December
7.30pm**

Arthur Morrison Memorial Hall, Cucklington



Across

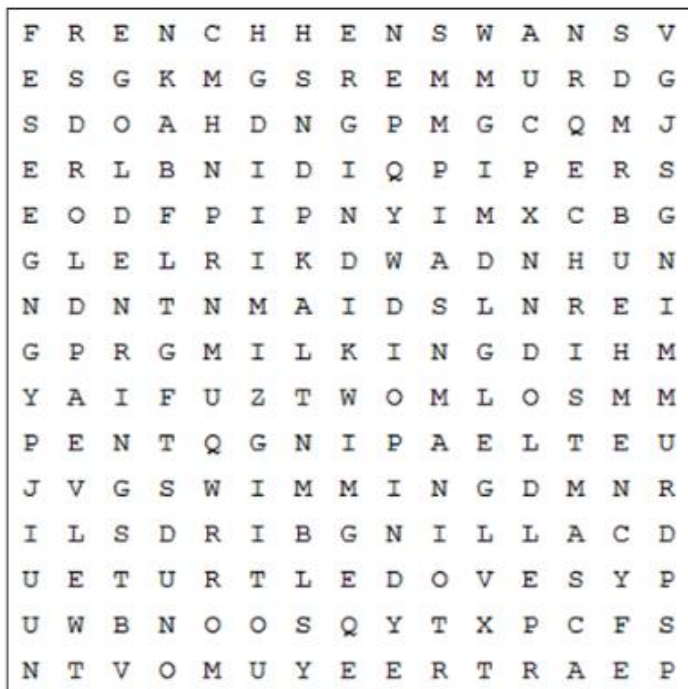
- 1 Traditional Christmas dessert (7)
- 5 We ____ You A Merry Christmas (Christmas carol) (4)
- 8 You put them up, and then you take them down. (11)
- 10 I'm going to ____ in the church choir this Christmas (4)
- 12 Kids often ____ with excitement when they open their presents (4)
- 13 You do this with 19 across (4)
- 14 Popular (but boring) Christmas gift (5)
- 17 The Christmas star seen by 33 across? (5)
- 18 Listening to Christmas carols always makes me ____ (3)
- 19 Hollow cardboard tube covered with coloured paper which goes BANG! (7)
- 20 The day before Christmas (or New Year) (3)
- 21 Chocolate sponge cake served at Christmas (4,3)
- 22 What are you planning to ____ for Christmas? (2)
- 23 Present (4)
- 25 Another name for Father Christmas (5)
- 28 There's usually one in a nativity scene (2)
- 29 What children send to Father Christmas (4)
- 32 Winged messengers from heaven (6)
- 33 They brought gifts for the baby Jesus (4,3)

Down

- 2 When You Wish ____ A Star (Disney song) (4)
- 3 'Christmas On ____' is my favourite show (3)
- 4 Santa's (department store) cave (6)
- 5 What you do with presents before giving them to people (4)
- 6 People kiss under it at Christmas (9)
- 7 We always go to midnight ____ on Christmas Eve (4)
- 9 Dark green climbing plant associated with Christmas (3)
- 11 One of the gifts brought by 33 across (4)
- 13 The office ____ is a Christmas ritual for many UK companies (5)
- 14 Christmas is the ____ of goodwill (6)
- 15 You must give me your Christmas ____ recipe (4)
- 16 Protagonist of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens (7)
- 20 One of Santa's helpers (3)
- 24 What children mostly get for Christmas (4)
- 25 Essential ingredient for a white Christmas (4)
- 26 Pine, fir, or artificial? (4)
- 27 One is said to have appeared over the birthplace of Jesus. (4)
- 30 There was no room here for Mary and Joseph (3)
- 31 Rudolph The ____ - Nosed Reindeer (Christmas song) (3)

Twelve Days of Christmas

1



6

10

2

3

12

4



11

CALLING BIRDS
CHRISTMAS
DAYS
DRUMMERS
DRUMMING
FRENCH HENS
GEESE

GOLDEN RINGS
LAYING
LEAPING
LORDS
MAIDS
MILKING
PARTRIDGE

PEAR TREE
PIPERS
PIPING
SWANS
SWIMMING
TURTLE DOVES
TWELVE

8

9

7

5

The Pilgrim Singers

Behold That Star

Sunday 15th December at 7.00pm

**at Wincanton Baptist Church
in aid of Wincanton CAT bus**

Tickets £12 (U16s free)

**from Wincanton Post Office
or tel: 01963 33695**

Seasonal refreshments included



The Unspeakable Gift

Long ago, there ruled in Persia a wise and good king. He loved his people. He wanted to know how they lived. He wanted to know about their hardships. Often he dressed in the clothes of a working man or a beggar, and went to the homes of the poor. No one whom he visited thought that he was their ruler. One time he visited a very poor man who lived in a cellar. He ate the coarse food the poor man ate. He spoke cheerful, kind words to him. Then he left. Later he visited the poor man again and disclosed his identity by saying, "I am your king!" The king thought the man would surely ask for some gift or favour, but he didn't. Instead he said with tears in his eyes, "You left your palace and your glory to visit me in this dark, dreary place. You ate the coarse food I ate. You brought gladness to my heart! To others you have given your rich gifts. To me, you have given yourself! The King of glory, the Lord Jesus Christ, gave himself to you and me. The Bible calls Him, "the unspeakable gift!"

Join us in celebrating the mystery of God made flesh this Christmas!



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Go the extra mile and help others

If you're above the age of 18, have a clean full driver licence and own a four-door car, why not volunteer for Somerset County Council to help others get to vital medical appointments? By committing as little as one day per week, you could greatly help a person who otherwise wouldn't be able to make appointments. Alternatively commit to more if that is what you choose!

Volunteer drivers provide a crucial transport service for non-emergency NHS patients and social care users enabling them to get to various locations across the county and further afield. You could also help transport children to college or to school, providing a crucial service to a young person's academic career. Each journey connects people with services they would otherwise miss out on. As a volunteer driver, you would be providing a vital lifeline to people in your community.

This is a rewarding opportunity to provide a valuable, practical support for people within your community and your mileage expenses will be reimbursed at up to 50p per mile. You will also be supported by a Transporting Officer from Somerset County Council's Transporting Somerset team.

Not only will you be helping the community, it's an excellent way of meeting new people.

To find out more visit <https://volunteering.somerset.gov.uk/opportunities/volunteer-driver/> or call 0300 123 2224



2019 Christmas Tree Festival
St Andrews Church, Stoke Trister

Friday 13th December

7pm to 9pm

Cheese & Wine

(with a sneaky peek at this year's glittering entries)

Saturday 14th December

Christmas Tree Festival 10am to 4pm

+ Singing of Carols (3pm to 4pm)

(seasonal refreshments available)

Sunday 15th December

Christmas Tree Festival 1pm to 4pm

+ Advent Service (6:30pm to 7:30pm)

(seasonal refreshments available)

Free Entry

With your help and support, it promises to be a magical
2019 Christmas Tree Festival