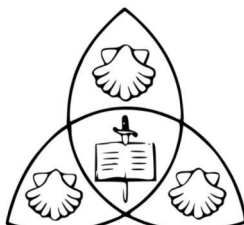


BUSHEY PARISH MAGAZINE



**DECEMBER
2023**



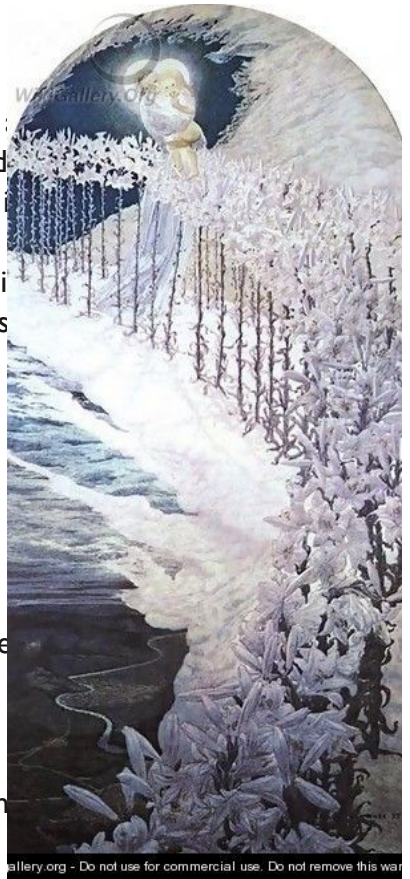
PARISH OF BUSHEY

60 PENCE

God and the Arts: 'The Virgin of the Lilies' by Carlos Schwabe

During this year we have been exploring how art can celebrate the wonder of this world. This month with our Lady and Jesus we stand above the world: high on the clouds with a glorious path of tall, elegant lilies that lead like a stairway to the earth beneath. This is 'The Virgin of the Lilies' by Carlos Schwabe. He was born in Germany and then lived in Switzerland and France, painting this canvas in 1899 when he was 33 years old.

It is like a scene caught when we look out of the window in an aeroplane. We can see the earth beneath and spot hills and valleys, roads and settlements, and a river weaving its way through the countryside. Mary and Jesus are haloed in a lunar-like radiance. The lilies are symbols of purity and obedience, the qualities that will take them to that scene at Bethlehem which we give thanks for at Christmas. The heavenly light shining out in the painting brings hope and joy to the world below, transforming lives with the wonder of the Saviour's birth.



Jesus holds three nails in his hand as a sign that His life will be tempered by rejection, suffering and death. But the lilies growing tall and straight in the skies are signs of new life and resurrection. The light come down to earth at Christmas can never be extinguished. That light and love are expressed in this vivid, moving painting of Carlos Schwabe as they are caught up in the carol of Christina Rossetti we sing at this time:

*Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.*

Archbishops invite choirs to join premiere of new Carol for Advent and Christmas

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have warmly invited parishes, choirs, and congregations to take part in the premiere of a special new Christmas carol in 2023.

This new carol, a fresh interpretation of the famous words 'The First Nowell', has been composed by the well-known composer Bob Chilcott, for use by choirs across the Church of England, and is free to download.

The mass carol premiere forms part of the Church of England's focus for Advent and Christmas 2023 'Follow the Star: Join the Song'. The carol also features in the highly anticipated Carols for Choirs 6 volume, published by the Oxford University Press, which is now available. In recent years, The Church of England has successfully engaged millions of individuals with the Christmas message through reflections, special events, music and resources.

This year's theme 'Follow the Star: Join the Song' emphasises the spiritual connection that singing can foster between individuals and God, as we journey from Advent to Epiphany, and the part that carol singing plays in many people's Christmas traditions. Parishes and choirs can share performances on social media using the hashtag #FollowTheStar.

In a letter, the Archbishops write: "We would love to see the carol feature in Christmas programming up and down the country, and we really hope that you will be willing to participate. Further details about this year's 'Follow the Star: Join the Song' campaign can be found at churchofengland.org/Christmas.

Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate. - Albert Schweitzer

MINISTRY TEAM

Rector of the Parish of Bushey: Fr David Stevenson
rector@busheyparish.org

Lay Leader of Worship: Christine Cocks LLW@busheyparish.org

CHURCHWARDENS

Salome Jayaratnam Roy Golding
wardens@busheyparish.org

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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*The Parish Office on the first floor of St James's Church House is open as follows:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8.30am-2.30pm; Wednesdays, 8.30am- 11.30am.
At other times, telephone calls may be redirected or messages left.*

PCC Secretary: Felicity Cox pcc_secretary@busheyparish.org

Safeguarding Officer: Gay Butler 07799 063404
safeguarding@busheyparish.org

Churchyard Manager: Greg Batts churchyard@busheyparish.org

Parish website: www.busheyparish.org webmaster@busheyparish.org

Parish of Bushey Livestream Facebook page :
<https://www.facebook.com/busheyparishlive>

YouTube channel

Search for "The Parish of Bushey" and subscribe. It's free.

Worship in the Parish of Bushey – December 2023

All service information here is provisional and subject to change.

For updates, please check the latest pew-sheet, our website or social media.

Sunday December 3 – Advent Sunday

8am – Said Eucharist, St James’s Church

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

11.15am – Said Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

6pm – Advent Carols, with Purcell School, St James’s Church

Sunday December 10

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

11.15am – Said Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

4pm – Christingle, St James’s Church

Wednesday December 13

3:30pm – Messy Church, St Paul's Church

Sunday December 17

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

11.15am – Said Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

6pm – Nine Lessons and Carols, St James’s Church

Sunday December 24

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

11.15am – Said Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

3pm and 4pm – Crib Services, St James’s Church

6:30pm – Crib and Carol Service, St Paul’s Church

11:00pm – Midnight Mass, St James’s Church

Christmas Day December 25

10am – Mass of Christmas Day with Carols, St James’s Church

St Stephen's Day December 26

12noon – Said Mass, St James's Church

Regular weekday services

Morning and Evening Prayer are suspended until further notice.

Said Eucharist 12.30pm – Wednesdays in St Paul’s Church

Covid-19: Face-coverings need no longer be worn in any of our Parish buildings, though individuals may of course continue to wear them by choice. Please respect the hygiene decisions of others .

From the Vicar

We're at that time of year again! But is Christmas just about the shopping, tree or presents? At its heart Christmas is all about a God who has showed up on earth. The Creator of the universe, whose hands flung stars into space, cared enough to come to earth as a tiny baby. 'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.' (John 1:14)

Every year we sing carols and retell the same story of the donkey, innkeeper, stable, angels, shepherds, star, wise men, gifts and Mary and Joseph with baby! Why do we do all this? It's to remind us that God deals with the mess of our world by sending His Son to die in our place. This makes it possible for us to have a relationship with Himself:

When the time came, He "did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:6-8)

Reflecting on Jesus in the manger is a great place to start understanding the heart of the Christmas message. However, it's so much more than simply a cute baby lying in the bed of straw:

*If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator;
If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist;
If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist;
If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer;
But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour.*

The Christmas Swallow By Ben Harris, SPCK, £9.99

A classic retelling of the Christmas story from a bird's eye viewpoint. This picture book has a narrative that uses repetitive phrases to engage young readers, introducing biblical truths about the birth of Jesus, as rescuer and born from God. The excitement of the shepherds and the heart-warming visit of the wise men are brought to life with vibrantly coloured illustrations by Estelle Corke. This would be ideal for sharing with young children aged 3+ years during the Christmas season.



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The Light of the World

During the month of December, people are ‘counting down’ to Christmas Day in an ever-increasing variety of ways.

In my childhood we had a simple card with a traditional picture of a manger scene with doors marked with the countdown numbers and a picture of the different characters behind each. If my parents had extra money to spend, they would buy one with shiny snow made of sparkles! These days you can pay hundreds to have a gift for each day from toys to jewellery. And don’t fret, your pets can have their own also!

Churches don’t normally count the days, but they do note the four Sundays before Christmas Day. They give each of those four ‘advent’ Sundays a theme and light a candle each time. One for the first week, two for the second and so on. Unlike the secular world, the church counts up, and not down. It increases the light as we get nearer to Christmas Day and then adds an extra light on that day. So, a total of five candles.

Churches vary in their use of colour in the candles. Some will use all white, whilst many only use white for the Christ-light on Christmas Day and ‘colours’ on the four Sundays. There again they vary; some use all purple – originally the most expensive colour - as we prepare for The King. In a more modern style, some use blue – perhaps recalling the most associated colour for Jesus’ mother Mary. But perhaps reminding us of creation and that we are surrounded by God’s love as the earth is surrounded by the blue sky. And again, others will change the colours for each Sunday, often giving the third Sunday to be pink as we are over half-way through Advent and it is known as Gaudate – Joyful – Sunday. Or there are those who make the fourth Sunday pink, as that one is often dedicated to Mary and it’s a ‘girly’ colour.

This month

Have a look at the advent candles in your church, or perhaps in your own home, and think about what the colours mean to you. How do they reflect your faith? Whatever the colour – Have a Good Christmas!

The story behind the hymn: **O Come, All ye Faithful**

Nobody knows who wrote this well-loved Christmas carol. It was originally a Latin Christmas hymn, 'Adeste Fidelis'. It seems to have first 'surfaced' in English due to a John Francis Wade, who lived in the 18th century, and who made his living copying manuscripts and, sometimes, music by hand. Wade was a Roman Catholic, and all services in the church at that time were conducted in Latin, and so he knew the language well.

The story goes that in about 1750 he slipped this hymn into a manuscript he was copying for the English Roman Catholic College in Lisbon, Portugal. 35 years later, in 1785, it turned up in the Portuguese Chapel in London, where it became known as the 'Portuguese Hymn'.

From there, the hymn appears to have 'travelled' across to the Margaret Chapel in London's West End. Young William Ewart Gladstone, who later became British Prime Minister, greatly appreciated the services at this church. He said that the congregation were "the most devout and happy that I have ever seen."

The minister at that time was Frederick Oakley, one of the leaders of the 19th century Oxford Movement, who was later to convert to Roman Catholicism. Oakley believed strongly in the power of religious symbols and fine music, and before he bade farewell to the Margaret Chapel, he introduced this hymn to the congregation. Having started as 'Adeste Fidelis', and been for a while 'The Portuguese Hymn', this hymn soon became known – and loved worldwide – as 'O Come, All Ye Faithful'.

*O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;*

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;*



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The history of Christmas

The Bible does not give a date for the birth of Jesus. In the third century it was suggested that Jesus was conceived at the Spring equinox, 25th March, popularising the belief that He was born nine months later on 25th December. John Chrysostom, the Archbishop of Constantinople, encouraged Christians worldwide to make Christmas a holy day in about 400.

In the early Middle Ages, Christians celebrated a series of midwinter holy days. Epiphany (which recalls the visit to the infant Jesus of the wise men bearing gifts) was the climax of 12 days of Christmas, beginning on 25th December. The Emperor Charlemagne chose 25th December for his coronation in 800, and the prominence of Christmas Day rose. In England, William the Conqueror also chose 25th December for his coronation in 1066, and the date became a fixture both for religious observance and feasting.

Cooking a boar was a common feature of mediaeval Christmas feasts, and singing carols accompanied it. Writers of the time lament the fact that the true significance of Christmas was being lost because of partying. They condemn the rise of 'misrule' – drunken dancing and promiscuity. The day was a public holiday, and traditions of bringing evergreen foliage into the house and the exchange of gifts (usually on Epiphany) date from this time.

In the 17th century the rise of new Protestant denominations led to a rejection of many celebrations that were associated with Catholic Christianity. Christmas was one of them. After the execution of Charles I, England's Puritan rulers made the celebration of Christmas illegal for 14 years. The restoration of Charles II ended the ban, but religious leaders continued to discourage excess, especially in Scotland. In Western Europe (but not worldwide) the day for exchanging gifts changed from Epiphany (6th January) to Christmas Day.

By the 1820s, the significance of Christmas was declining. Charles Dickens was one of several writers who sought to restore it. His novel *A Christmas Carol* was significant in reviving merriment during the festival. He emphasised charity and family reunions, alongside religious observance. Christmas trees, paper chains, cards and many well-known carols date from this time. So did the tradition of Boxing Day, on 26th December, when tradesmen who had given reliable service during the year would collect 'boxes' of money or gifts from their customers.

In Europe Santa Claus is the figure associated with the bringing of gifts. Santa Claus is a shortening of the name of Saint Nicholas, who was a Christian bishop in the fourth century in present-day Turkey. He was particularly noted for his care for children and for his generosity to the poor. By the Middle Ages his appearance, in red bishop's robes and a mitre, was adored in the Netherlands and familiar across Europe.

Father Christmas dates from 17th century England, where he was a secular figure of good cheer (more associated with drunkenness than gifts). The transformation of Santa Claus into today's Father Christmas started in New York in the 1880s, where his red robes and white beard became potent advertising symbols. In some countries (such as Latin America and Eastern Europe) the tradition attempts to combine the secular and religious elements by holding that Santa Claus makes children's presents and then gives them to the baby Jesus to distribute.

From: <https://christianity.org.uk/the-history-of-christmas/#.W9LmchNKhsM>

Israel-Gaza Conflict – UK faith leaders condemn antisemitism and call for solidarity

The Archbishop of Canterbury was recently joined by Muslim and Jewish leaders at Lambeth Palace to condemn the sharp rise in antisemitic incidents since the start of the war in Israel and Hamas. They called for unity between British faith communities, against the backdrop of the war.

Archbishop Justin Welby, Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra and Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg stood together outside Lambeth Palace and delivered statements calling for solidarity and unity between communities in the UK, and rejecting any form of hatred or discrimination.

Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra is a scholar and imam from Leicester, and a former Assistant Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain. Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg is the Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism UK, and Rabbi of the New North London Synagogue.

St Nicholas, a much-loved saint

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.

Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten - in bygone years boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December, and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many people feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.



And there were shepherds...

Luke's story of the birth of Jesus is brilliantly told – the angel's visit to Mary to tell her she would be mother of the long-promised Messiah, the old priest in the Temple told by another angel that his wife would have a son to be called 'John', who would prepare the people of Israel for that event, and then Mary and Joseph making the 60 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, as required by the Roman census. When they got there, no room at the inn, and they settled instead for a convenient stable, where Mary gave birth to a boy child.

Suddenly, Luke changes the tone. 'And there were shepherds ...' – that's what he actually wrote, just like that. 'And there were shepherds', doing exactly what shepherds do, looking after their flocks by night. But this night was different: yet another angelic message – a call to abandon their sheep and go into Bethlehem to see the baby Messiah. They were given directions and a 'sign' to identify Him. He would be lying in a feeding trough. Well, at least they would recognise that.

And why the shepherds, in this glorious story of our salvation? Because the event needed witnesses, and the chosen witnesses would be this bunch of scruffy, smelly shepherds straight from the sheep-pen. Nothing could speak more eloquently of God's purpose than that. This was not a Saviour for the strong, rich and powerful, but for everybody. The carpenter and his wife guarded the Saviour of the world, and the very first witnesses were not kings or priests but a handful of shabby shepherds.

Emergency First Aid at Work Course

A first aid course has been booked for Saturday 13th January 2024, 9.30am – 4.00pm (approximately) at St. Paul's Church hall. There are 12 places available and, whilst anyone can apply, priority will be given to members of our church congregations. Applicants must be over 16 years old and be able to kneel in order to complete the practical assessment.

The course is free to members of our two churches and the certificate gained on completion lasts for 3 years. To book your place or for further details, please contact Marion Golding 07787 538232
marion.g.golding@gmail.com

Thank Dickens for Christmas as you know it!

Ever wonder where many of our Christmas traditions come from? A surprising amount of our modern Christmas celebrations can be traced back to the well-loved story of 'A Christmas Carol', by Charles Dickens. When you read it, you discover almost a template of the 'ideal Christmas' which we still hold dear today. Dickens seems to have selected the best of the Christmas celebrations of his day (he ignored some of the odd excesses) and packaged them in such a way as to give us traditions that we could accommodate and treasure – more than a century later.

So, for instance, in *A Christmas Carol*, Christmas is a family day, with a family-centred feast. In a home decorated with holly and candles the characters enjoy a roast turkey, followed by Christmas pudding. They give their loved ones presents. Scrooge even gives donations to charity (!). And all the while outside, there is snow and frost, while church bells ring, and carol singers sing, and hope for mulled wine. In 'A Christmas Carol' there is even a Father Christmas – in the shape of Christmas Present. Only the Christmas tree itself came later, when Prince Albert imported 'a pretty German toy' that won the heart of the English court, and hence the rest of Victorian society.

Mrs Doubtfire - A Christmas Panto

I'll probably be considered a party pooper and mean-spirited for admitting to this but I've never been keen on pantomimes. This sentiment was reinforced recently when an email popped into my inbox from a theatre club advertising a Christmas panto, ending with the bizarre message 'not really suitable for young children.'

Recently, 7 members of my family whose ages ranged between 6 - 74 saw Mrs Doubtfire the musical at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London. All three generations really enjoyed the show, which was poignant, funny, very clever - and suitable for all ages. So, if you're considering a family treat this Christmas, I'd say Mrs. Doubtfire the musical is an excellent alternative to the seasonal panto, and of course the underlying message is - love conquers everything.Oh yes it does !!!

Marion Golding



Singing groups for people living with dementia

Herts Musical Memories delivers vibrant music sessions that are both fun and therapeutic for people with memory problems, people living with dementia and their carers.

Herts Musical Memories help connect people to their memories through singing. The sessions are based in music therapy and attending a singing session is a fun and stimulating activity, providing health benefits for both those living with dementia and their carers. Scientific research shows that group singing improves well-being and overall quality of life. With regular attendance it can improve sociability, increase self-confidence and decrease anxiety.

Most importantly laughter is a key ingredient to a Herts Musical Memories Session.

For your free trial session and to find out your nearest group please give us a call or drop us a line.

**To book your session or for more information contact us on 020 8950 5757
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or visit www.hertsmusicalmemories.org.uk**

The Robin on my Christmas Card

The Robin on my Christmas Card
Upon a postbox, red –
He fixed me with a gaze quite hard
And this is what he said:

“O, viewer of this Christmas card
“I bet that you don’t know
“Why I upon this card am here
“To bring a yuletide glow?”

I said to him, “O birdie, do
“Reveal your secret deep
“I see you all the yearlong through
“And hear your joyful cheep!”

“So why, O Robin, tell me why
“When you’re around all year
“On lawn, or branch, or in the sky
“Why now this Christmas cheer?”

He said to me that long ago
The postmen you would see
Their jackets vivid red would glow –
“In fact, they looked like me!”

“From then till now my bright red
breast
“And cheery trilling tweet
“Has come upon the Christmas fest
“To bring a Christmas treat!”

By Nigel Beeton



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Bishop Alan's visit to St Paul's Church on 19th November



Armistice Day at St James's Church

This was the first time that a Remembrance service had been held outside St James's church. About 20 people attended, Stuart Brant rang the bells, and Simon Brant played the trumpet. It was very moving. *Sue Baxter*



Bell ringing news

S Kathleen M Baldwin 1932 - 2023

Kath was born on 8th July 1932 and died peacefully on Wednesday 16th August, at the age of 91, after a period of ill health. She will be sadly missed by her family and many friends, particularly amongst bellringers. She had been a bellringer at St James' Bushey for more than 60 years, had been in the choir, and was a regular worshipper at this church.

Kath was a prolific and highly skilled bellringer, ringing both tower bells and handbells. She had rung in towers throughout the UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand. She learned to ring at St Nicholas Church, Guildford. She was proud of being coached by Alf Pulling, one of the leading ringers of the day. Kath quickly became a proficient ringer and was known for her excellent striking and high standards. Her first peal, of Plain Bob Minor, was at Petersfield on 1st September 1951. Her first peal with Roger was at Alverstoke in 1954. Kath had rung 3985 peals to date comprising 2730 on tower bells and 1255 on handbells. Her last tower bell peal was on 2nd February 2016 when she rang the treble to Bristol Surprise Major. This was the first peal on the bells at Bushey after their recent restoration.

Although she rang many peals and quarters, at many towers throughout the world, her main priority was service ringing at Bushey and supporting other towers in the area. She joined the band at St James' in 1962 and rang here regularly two or three times a week until age and failing health intervened. She was widely recognised as the leading lady ringer of her generation, pioneering heavy bell ringing by ladies. Many have said her endeavours were inspirational and have led to ladies now routinely ringing tenors and heavy bells. She was proud to have rung the 30cwt tenor bell at St Martin in the Fields to a ladies' peal.

Kath was a member of the choir at Aldenham and later in life at Bushey, and was pleased to take part when Bushey choir sang the services at York Minster and Beverley Minster.

Kath was a devout Christian throughout her life, worshipping regularly in this church. She will be greatly missed, particularly amongst the ringing fraternity. To date, over 40 performances have been rung in thanksgiving for Kath's life.

Special occasion ringing at St James's Bushey in recent months

Friday 7th July 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major. Rung for Kath Baldwin's 91st birthday.

Wednesday 12th July 1260 Grandsire Triples rung for the collation and induction of Fr. David Stevenson as Rector of Bushey.

Sunday 23rd July 1280 Rutland Surprise Major rung for the Feast of St James.

Sunday 20th August 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major rung in Thanksgiving for the life of Kath Baldwin.

Wednesday 12th September 1344 Yorkshire Surprise Major rung before the funeral of Kath Baldwin.

Sunday 24th September 1280 Superlative Surprise Major rung for David Gambling's 80th birthday.

Tuesday 31st October 5088 London Surprise Major rung by the St James' Guild in thanksgiving for the life of Kath Baldwin.

Wednesday 1st November 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major rung for All Saints' Day by the current President and seven former presidents of the Hertford County Association of Change Ringers.

Wednesday 1st November 1280 Lincolnshire Surprise Major rung for All Saints' Day by the current President, four former Presidents and three former President's wives of the Hertford County Association of Change Ringers.

Tuesday 7th November 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major rung in Thanksgiving for the life of Jill Walters on the day of her funeral.

Nativity Quiz in 20 Questions

1. Where did Mary and Joseph live before Jesus was born?
a) Nazareth b) Bethlehem c) Jerusalem
2. What was the name of the angel who told Mary she would have a child?
3. What did Joseph do for a living?
4. Who was the Roman ruler when Jesus was born?
5. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
6. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
7. Why couldn't Mary and Joseph find a place to stay?
8. Where does the Bible say Jesus was born?
a) In a stable b) In hay c) In a manger
9. According to the Bible, which animals were specifically mentioned as being present in the stable when Jesus was born?
a) sheep and a donkey b) cattle and a donkey c) donkey, sheep and cattle d) None
10. What does the angel say to the shepherds when they tell them to go to Bethlehem?
11. The wise men travelled to Jerusalem. a) northward b) southward c) eastward d) westward
12. What did the Wise Men follow to find Jesus?
13. How many Wise Men visited baby Jesus?
14. What gifts did the wise men bring for Jesus?
15. Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem?
16. What is the City of David also known as in the bible?
17. Which of the gospels tell the story of the Nativity?
18. What does Jesus' other name, "Immanuel", mean? a) God with us b) Son of God c) He who is God d) Chosen One
19. How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give him the name Jesus?
20. Jesus was born on the 25th of December. True or false?

Answers are on p34

Why King Charles never throws cake away

King Charles is on a mission to tackle food poverty and rising food waste.

It is said that he and the Queen eat daily slices from the same cake until it is finished, as part of a drive to curb their personal food waste.

As for the nation, the king has been increasingly concerned that in the UK, 12 million tons of food is thrown away each year - even though almost three quarters of it could still be eaten, according to experts. In contrast, an estimated 4.7million people are living in food poverty.

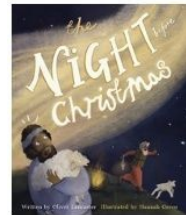
To combat this problem, King Charles has launched The Coronation Food Project, to coincide with this, his 75th year.

Up to eight new food hubs around the country will store food, prepare it, and package it, before redistributing it to organisations like food banks and community kitchens. The long-term goal is to circulate 200 million meals a year.

In the meantime, King Charles is careful not to throw his cake away. Is there one simple thing you could do in your own kitchen this Christmas, to curb your personal food waste?

The Night Before Christmas - A nativity spin on the classic poem By Oliver Lancaster, 10Publishing, £6.99

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the stable
every creature was stirring. This ain't a fable!
No stockings were hung, no chimney in sight,
but one thing's for sure - The Lord came that night!*



Children will love this rollicking retelling of the Christmas story, based on the classic festive poem. They will join in the chaos and the wonder of the very first 'night before Christmas' - when everything was far from silent and still!

Safeguarding standards published

The Church of England has published a set of National Safeguarding Standards. They will serve as an ‘essential benchmark,’ enabling Church bodies to identify both their strengths and areas for development, which will in turn inform their strategic planning in respect of safeguarding.

The five Standards have been developed after three years of consultation, and they build on existing policies and procedures including the previous Promoting a Safer Church statement. The Church of England’s lead safeguarding bishop, Joanne Grenfell, said: “All organisations, including the Church, must be able to demonstrate how well they are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities. The standards are part of a vital quality assurance framework aimed at making the Church a safer place for all. I know they will be welcomed by all those involved in their local church.”

Findings of survivor engagement national survey published

The results of a vital survivor engagement survey have been published. The aim of the national anonymous online survey was to listen to the views of victims and survivors about how they would like to work with the National Safeguarding Team, NST, to develop and implement a Survivor Engagement Framework. The survey, which was open for nearly three months later in 2022, gathered the views of 171 adult victims and survivors of any form of abuse, with the majority of respondents identifying as victims of Church-related abuse. Overall safety, empowerment, trust and communication emerged as key themes in relation to preventing re-traumatisation.

The next steps are to develop and implement an action plan to co-produce the Survivor Engagement Framework to include strategic outcomes, key milestones, resources, risk assessment processes, communication strategy and evaluation. There will also be a coproduction of a charter/code of conduct with victims and survivors.

If you or anyone you are in contact with wish to talk to someone independently, please call the Safe Spaces helpline on 0300 303 1056 or visit www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk. Alternatively, you may wish to contact the diocesan safeguarding team in your area or the NST – email safeguarding@churchofengland.org

FRIENDS OF BUSHEY MUSEUM

Bushey Museum is open every
Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
11.00am-4.00pm. Admission free.

We're also online at www.busheymuseum.org

Come and see our latest exhibitions especially a fundraising exhibition for The Tower Appeal at St James's Church Bushey, which showcases a large collection of paintings of the Church, plus Vestements and Regalia.

The Museum shop has a range of Christmas cards and items that can be purchased for Seasonal gifts. Many items have been reduced, making them bargains.

Bushey Museum & Art Gallery, Rudolph Road WD23 3HW



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Bushey Church and Churchyard Trust Funds (November 2023)

As Churchyard Manager, I thought I should understand more about these Funds that appear in our Annual Reports. Over many years people had left money in trust funds to be used to maintain personal graves in our Churchyard. In 1997 the PCC identified 13 trust funds that were viable and consolidated them into a single Investment Fund named “Bushey Church and Churchyard Trust Fund” that is administered by the SADBF (St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance). There is also a Deposit Fund to run alongside to hold any income generated from the investments. The Ellis Grave Trust Investment Fund (two sisters) was kept separate.

The PCC own the monies and receive any income for the purpose of maintaining the listed graves as shown in the Annual Report. The Investment Fund Capital cannot be used by the PCC without a resolution change, but providing we keep the graves in reasonable condition, any surplus money can be used to maintain the Churchyard or Church. At the start of 2023 there was over £2,500 available for Ellis (& Tomlins) and ~£7,000 for the others.

In alphabetical order the 14 Listed Graves plus Ellis are:-
BISHOP, CLARE, COLES (X2), DAWES, ELLIS (& TOMLINS), MEAD, RUSSEL, TARNER, THURGOOD, TOMLINS, WEBB-WARE, WEST & WILLIAMS (X2).
Over the coming months I plan to review each of the above graves and where necessary, get a team of volunteers to carry out maintenance work in accordance with the Trust, e.g. this is the Mead Grave before and after a tidy-up. Weather permitting, the first session will be on December 9th, 10-12.



Food Banks across the UK may be facing their ‘worst winter’ yet

The Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) has warned that the numbers of people needing foodbanks this year are still rising, as the cost-of-living crisis continues.

The Trussell Trust, which runs the UK’s largest network of food banks, expects to support more than 600,000 people between December and February. This means handing out around one million food parcels, or an average of one parcel every eight seconds, which is 11,500 parcels a day, making it the “worst winter yet” for the charity.

These figures support what workers at Citizens Advice have found, that there is a “terrifying new normal of people living on empty.”

To compound the problem, many independent food banks are now running low on donations. As the manager of one such foodbank recently told the IFAN, “Surplus food is down. Our collections are under 50% of what they were. It just doesn’t work.”

Paul O’Brien of social justice charity Micah Liverpool put it this way: “Food banks cannot sustain this level of poverty for much longer.”

Su Parrish, based at The Easter Team in Crawley, explains a further problem for the foodbanks: “Everyone is feeling the strain of struggling to support clients with increasingly complex needs. Most of our volunteers signed up to give out food parcels and be a friendly face spreading some love. They didn’t anticipate the level of stress that our clients now exhibit because of the situations they find themselves in.”

Red Trust Bushey Food Bank

The RTB food bank/hub is no longer operating from Church House. There will be no collections taken in Church House nor will there be a bin in the rectory drive, but food can be left in the labelled bins in the laundrette in Bushey High Street. RTB now operates from the Pheonix Community Centre, Farrington Avenue, Bushey.

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High Street WD23 1BD

churchhouse@busheyparish.org

St Paul's, John Stobbart Hall

Bushey Hall Road WD23 2EQ

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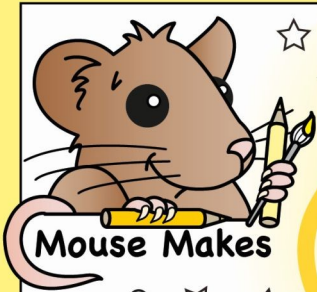
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The Children's Page



Mouse Makes



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

V	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	L	R	O	D
W	O	R	D	C	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
J	A	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	G	E	B
O	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	W	I	I	J
S	J	O	Y	B	O	R	N	O	S	G	E
E	S	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	S
P	P	Y	J	C	H	I	L	D	E	P	U
H	R	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
F	A	V	O	U	R	E	F	R	W	S	O
B	I	R	T	H	S	W	O	F	O	D	L
I	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	U	R	L	O
F	E	C	O	U	N	C	E	L	L	O	R
A	N	G	E	L	B	J	V	K	D	V	D
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	G	E	S
L	A	N	G	E	L	S	R	G	O	D	V
I	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	T	D	S	M
F	P	G	I	V	E	N	A	H	U	O	A
E	E	H	G	A	V	E	S	R	W	N	R
S	A	E	G	R	E	A	T	O	N	L	Y
O	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	N	N	J	O
N	E	O	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	N
F	L	O	C	K	M	I	G	H	T	Y	B

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

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St Paul's Church, WD23 2EQ

Organist	Martyn Lambert	01923 903365
Stewardship Officer	Mrs Marion Golding	07787 538232
Hall Bookings	Jill Macey	07736 680501

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsBushey/>

Messy Church

Contact: Mrs Jane Groushko, 07974 771342

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Bushey Parish Magazine is published monthly, in hard copy (price 60p) and free online at www.busheyparish.org under "News".



100 Club winners in October

Congratulations to our 100 Club winners for October
John Hodson (£60); James Mooney-Dutton (£40);
and Clare Humphreys (£20).

*For more information about the 100 Club,
contact Clare Humphreys on 020 8950 6352 or see
www.busheyparish.org/parish-100-club*

St James's Church, WD23 1BD

Bell Ringers Mr Stuart Brant 01923 330999

Finance & Stewardship Group Taiye Sanwo (Hon Treasurer)
Christine Cocks (CMF Officer)

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Church House hall bookings churchhouse@busheyparish.org

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/st.jameschurchbushey

From the Registers

FUNERAL

"Let light perpetual shine on them"

November 7. 2023

Jillian Walters

Christmas Wreath Making, and Christmas Baubles decorating for Children

We will be once again running a Christmas Wreath workshop all materials provided. Coffee and mince pies, soft drinks and Christmas treats £10 for adults, free for children.

Saturday 9th December in Church House 10am-12noon

For more details and tickets, please contact Felicity on 07973 517812



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - December 2023

For Advent and Christmas Services, please see p5

Wednesday December 6 and Wednesdays throughout December



COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT + BARGAIN TABLE-SALE

St Paul's Church, 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Followed by Said Eucharist (12.30pm)

Saturday December 9

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

Church House, 10am - 12noon

See p33

Saturday December 9

GRAVE CLEARING

St James's Churchyard, 10am - 12noon (weather permitting)

See p26

Wednesday December 13

MESSY CHURCH

St Paul's Church, 3.30pm



Nativity Quiz Answers:

1. Nazareth;
2. Gabriel;
3. Carpenter;
4. Caesar Augustus;
5. To register for the census;
6. We are not told in the Bible;
7. There was no room at the inn;
8. c) In a manger;
9. d) None;
10. 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people';
11. d) westward;
12. A star;
13. The Bible doesn't say;
14. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh;
15. The shepherds;
16. Bethlehem;
17. Matthew and Luke;
18. a) God with us;
19. 8, according to the law;
20. False; we don't know the date



ST JAMES'S CHURCH BUSHEY
WD23 1BD

RECITALS 2023

3rd December	Advent Carols, Purcell School 6pm
16th December	Kings Langley Community Choir

Please join us at St James's Church for our Recitals.
There will be coffee served from 10.30am and light lunches from 12.30pm.
Recitals last for about 45 minutes. Free entry, donations welcome.



MESSY CHURCH @ St Paul's

Wednesday December 13th at 3:30pm
(please note: 2nd Wednesday of month)

Wednesday January 17th at 3:30pm

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