ELMBRIDGE

ELMLEY LOVETT

HAMPTON LOVETT

WINTER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE FOUR SQUARE GROUP OF PARISHES



2022

RUSHOCK

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to our Winter edition.

I would like to thank the Reverend Stephen Owen for all his input into our magazine over the last few years. We are incredibly grateful that you have shared with us your thoughts, memories and experiences. We appreciate the time you have dedicated to us producing your articles and we hope when life becomes less busy you may return to contributing to our magazine.

When a contributor such as Stephen Owen stands down, it makes you realise how much of our magazine relies upon a very small number of people sitting down each month and putting their thoughts onto paper for our reading pleasure. Stephen Winter, Terry Green and AJ Selby always start our magazine with substantial pieces which make for enjoyable reading and are much appreciated. Those preparing the Parish news also go unsung. All the magazine roles are voluntary and hidden from view. Yet the result is something which they should all be very proud of.

Please remember the next magazine is going to be in February.

I wish you all a healthy and peaceful Christmas full of love and joy and may the new year bring you all that you wish for!

Marzena Cartwright

RUBY TUESDAY

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

When do you last write or receive a handwritten letter or card?

If you would like to join others in the community to maybe write to someone whilst having a cup of tea, coffee and biscuits, you are more than welcome to come along to **Lord Morton's Tea Rooms** on the **2nd Tuesday of every Month**. The first meeting will be on **14th February** between 10 and 12 for refreshments.

Stationary can be provided on the day or feel free to bring your own. Individuals can then post their postal treasure in our lovely village GR postbox. A letter can transport the writer into the home of the receiver and is something that can be kept forever.

If you feel you don't have anyone you want to write to come along anyway as Donna knows of two charities that distribute kind words to people. The charity post can all be placed in one envelope.

These get togethers are being supported by Droitwich CVS (Droitwich Community Voluntary Support, an independent charity that supports, promotes and develops community and voluntary action in the Droitwich Spa area) and the Elmley Trust.

Lord Lee is keen to welcome us into his lovely tea room and Donna will be present to help you with your writing or just sit and take in the atmosphere. We are also looking for donations towards stationary and events and if anyone has any unused writing paper, notelets or postcards they would be gratefully received.

These Tuesdays will be known as "Ruby Tuesday"

Hope to see you there. Any questions please feel free to contact me.

Donna Quinn 07714458080

THE WORCESTERSHIRE SEVERN PARISHES CENTRE

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or 07968 531216 (in emergencies only)
Email admin@w7b.org.uk
Web **www.7parishes.co.uk**

Post Seven Parishes Centre
c/o St.Andrews Church,
Main Road, OMBERSLEY
Worcestershire.WR9 0EW

THOUGHTS FROM THE RECTOR



So, once again, Christmas is almost upon us. In one way it will be the first “normal” Christmas for three years, since 2019. As Christmas approached in 2020 you will remember that we were going into our second lockdown and it felt very different from the first in the spring of that year when the weather was beautiful and it almost felt as if we had been given an unexpected holiday. Of course, those of you who have businesses to run or to work in might have felt very different from that. So too might those who had to home school while trying to hold down a job. But for all, the journey into the dark time of the year while being locked into our homes was tough. And then last year the Omicron variant of the virus was sweeping through the country and all hopes of normality were swept away with it.

I will come back to that word, normal, again in a moment, but first let's come back to Christmas 2022, the one we are about to experience. Covid is still with us, of course. I am writing this piece on a November afternoon during a time when I should have been in a meeting of local clergy. I say, should have, because it has been cancelled due to the fact that a number of my colleagues from Kidderminster have contracted the virus. To add to this none of us know from day to day what effect the war in Ukraine is going to have upon us. Will we have lengthy power cuts? We do not know. And, speaking of power, we are all having to spend a lot more of our money on this.

So let's come back to that word, normal. Surely we have to accept that what we call, normal, is usually when things work out well for us, and sometimes they do. All our wishes occasionally come true. But I wonder if you were to ask Mary whether her wishes came true about the birth of her first child I doubt whether she could say that things had been just perfect. I visited a farm the other day and I was taken into the cattle shed where the herd was going through the crush for bovine tuberculosis testing. Within a few seconds I regretted the fact that I did not have a pair of wellies in the back of my car. A country parson really ought to be better prepared! And then I thought of a young woman having a baby there.

The word, normal, was so far removed from such a thought that it did not even enter my mind. If I were Joseph I would feel a complete failure that this was the best that I could find for my wife. And yet Mary was filled with joy because of the birth of her son.

She found her joy within her own heart, not in her assessment of her experience. She did not write a review for TripAdvisor rating the cattle shed and recommending it for others. Her experience is still shared around the world today by millions of poor people and yet I don't think that we are wrong to find it magical when we go to a nativity play and see our children and grandchildren re-enact the story every Christmas. We are not there to celebrate the normal. We are there to wonder at the miracle, not just of the first Christmas but of our own children too. And everyone else's too. If only they could be treated as miracles all through their lives. How wonderful it would be if someone treated you as a miracle.

Which, by the way, you are.

So I am not going to wish that you are going to have a normal Christmas this year. I am going to wish that you have a wonderful Christmas. I am going to wish that you find the miracle of your life at least once and that you will learn to carry the wonder of it with you in the year ahead.

Revd Stephen Winter

MORNING PRAYER

The dates for Morning Prayer are as follows: (All are Wednesday morning at 09.15 am):

December		***January***	
07.12.22	Hampton	04.01.23	Elmbridge
14.12.22	Ombersley	11.01.23	Hartlebury
21.12.22	Doverdale	18.01.23	Rushock
28.12.22	Elmley	25.01.23	Hampton

Diana Glendenning

2022/3

Service schedule

THE WORCESTERSHIRE SEVERN PARISHES

Elmley Lovett, Hampton Lovett, Elmbridge, Rushock, Hartlebury, Ombersley, Doverdale

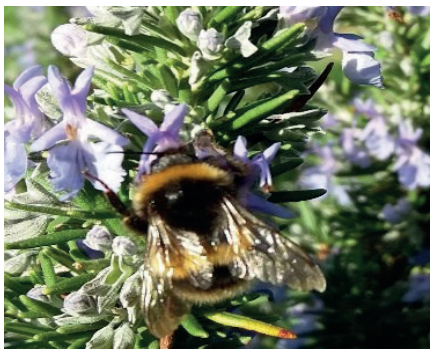
December 4th **2nd Sunday of Advent**			**Dec 11th** **3rd of Advent**			**Dec 18th** **4th of Advent**			**Dec 24th** **Christmas Eve**			**Dec 25th** **Christmas Day**		
9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW	9.00 am	Rushock	HC-CW	9.00 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW	3.00 pm	Rushock	Crib Service	9.00 am	Rushock	HC-CW
10.00 am	Hartlebury	Sunday First	10.00 am	Ombersley	Family Service	11.00 am	Doverdale	Carol Service	4.00 pm	Hartlebury	Christingle	TBC	Doverdale	TBC
10.30 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW	10.30 am	Elmley Lovett	MP-BCP	11.00 am	Ombersley	Carol Service	6.00 pm	Hampton Lovett	HC-BCP	10.30 am	Elmbridge	Family Service
11.00 am	Doverdale	MP-BCP	11.00 am	Hartlebury	HC-CW	4.00 pm	Hartlebury	Carol Service	7.00 pm	Hartlebury	HC-CW	10.30 am	Ombersley	Family Service
11.00 am	Ombersley	HC-CW	6.00 pm	Hampton Lovett	Carol Service	6.30 pm	Elmley Lovett	9 Lessons & Carols	11.00 pm	Ombersley	Midnight HC-CW			
									11.00 pm	Elmley Lovett	Midnight HC-BCP			

Jan 1st **2nd Sunday after Christmas**			**Jan 8th** **Epiphany Sunday**			**Jan 15th** **2nd Sunday of Epiphany**			**Jan 22nd** **3rd Sunday of Epiphany**			**Jan 29th** **Presentation of Christ**		
11.00 am	ZOOM	HC-CW	9.00 am	Rushock	HC-CW	9.00 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW	9.00 am	Elmley Lovett	HC-BCP	10.00 am	Hartlebury	7 Parishes HC-CW
11.00 am	Doverdale	MP-BCP	10.00 am	Ombersley	Family Service	10.00 am	Hartlebury	MP-CW	11.00 am	Ombersley	HC-CW			
			10.30 am	Elmley Lovett	MP-BCP	10.00 am	Ombersley	MP-CW						
			11.00 am	Hartlebury	HC-CW	11.00 am	Doverdale	HC-BCP						
						6.00 pm	Hampton Lovett	ES-BCP						

KEY

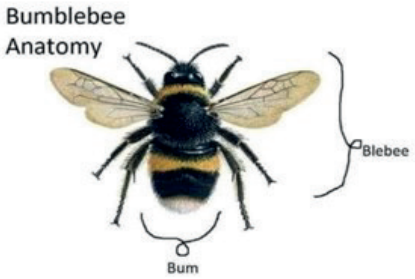
BCP - Book of Common Prayer
CW - Common Worship
HC - Holy Communion
MP - Morning Prayer
ES - Evensong

BIRDS, MORE BIRDS AND BADGERS with a Festive Finale



The weather has certainly provided plenty of variety since I wrote last month's contribution. We have had a very mild spell followed by torrential rain and gale-force winds which have removed most of the leaves from the trees. Temperatures have now dropped which has increased the visitors to the bird table as natural food stocks decline and energy requirements increase. Having said that, on Thursday 3rd November the sun came out and I spotted a number of pollinators on my Rosemary bush that is flowering well. These included hoverflies, honeybees and a Buff-tailed Bumblebee which seemed happy to pose for a photo!

Apologies for this rather daft educational picture on the right if you don't share my sense of humour!





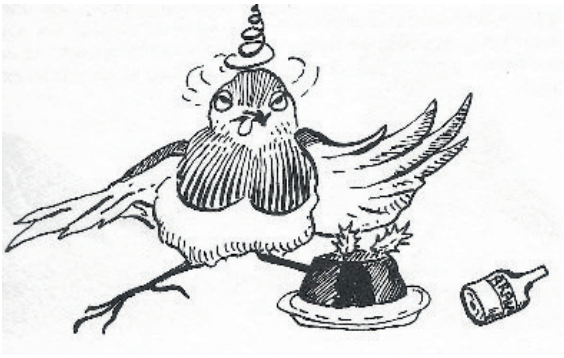
The 2022 Big Garden Birdwatch showed that the ten most common birds in gardens were: House Sparrow, Blue Tit, Starling, Wood Pigeon, Blackbird, Robin, Goldfinch, Great Tit, Magpie and Chaffinch. We have had all of these in our garden over the year, although Chaffinches are only occasionally seen, and our list would include Dunnocks, which are easily overlooked, Collared Doves, Jackdaws, Magpies, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Sparrowhawks and Stock Doves. Winter migrants such as Redwings and Fieldfares are on their way with the latter being heard in Park Lane recently. Apparently, this could also be a good Waxwing year due to conditions in Scandinavia where they spend the summer. These birds (left) are a real treat to see when feasting on berries such as Rowan and Hawthorn. There are a lot of Hawthorn berries about this year which may or may not predict a hard winter depending on where you get your folklore from!

Garden bird winter support

I know that many people provide food for birds all year round but we are now coming into the time of year when supplementary feeding can mean a difference between life and death. For example a House Sparrow only weighs about 34 grams and needs to eat about half its weight daily to survive. A combination of short daylight hours and cold temperatures makes a potentially fatal situation. A good quality seed mix will help sustain many of the birds that share our gardens; cheap mixes often contain a lot of whole wheat which does not get eaten readily and is only appreciated by pigeons. A good Robin and Songbird mix is preferable and can often be found in pet shops and garden centres, through advertisements in wildlife and gardening magazines and online. Premium products are also available but, in my opinion, do not really warrant the extra cost. Seed can be fed on a bird table or in a tubular feeder although some seed will end up on the floor. To prevent waste, trays are available to fit on the bottom of feeders or a Christmas chocolate tub can be repurposed. A few drain holes are drilled in the bottom of the tub and it can then be wired on to the bottom of the feeder. Squirrels may be a problem but squirrel resistant feeders are available. If they are climbing up the feeder pole an application of grease will provide you with hours of entertainment.



High calorie foods such as fat balls, suet pellets, sunflower hearts and peanuts will provide an energy boost as they provide around 50 calories per 10 grams. Dried mealworms contain 50% protein and 30% fat and are a lot easier to control than the live ones. Robins may take the mealworms from your hand if you are patient. Please do not put bread on the bird table as it is bulky and will fill the birds up but not provide many calories.



More seasonal offerings such as Christmas pudding, cake, and mince pies are also very acceptable although any with a high alcohol content should be avoided. Apples and pears which have been cut in half will be enjoyed by all members of the Thrush family.



A supply of clean water for both drinking and bathing are essential. A daily bath even on the coldest day will ensure that the bird's plumage is kept in good condition which will provide waterproofing and insulation. Where possible, in freezing conditions it is easier to empty the bath every night and refill it in the morning rather than trying to break the ice.

One aspect of bird feeding that has become more important is hygiene as we have become aware of a number of avian diseases that may be transmitted when birds gather together. As well as the much-publicised Avian Flu, Trichomoniasis has affected Greenfinch and Chaffinch populations and a new problem in blackbirds, Usutu virus, has been identified in London and the South-East. Regular cleaning of bird feeders, tables and baths, using a weak solution of bleach (1 part bleach to 9 parts water), is recommended by the British Trust for Ornithology. The food should be checked carefully especially in damp conditions as it may deteriorate. Mouldy nuts are to be avoided at all costs and any showing signs of mould should be discarded as they may contain aflatoxin which is highly toxic.

Badger update

You may remember that earlier in the year a number of local badger setts were found to have been illegally blocked. The Badger Trust cleared the blockages and it is good to recently see some evidence of Badger activity back at the setts. West Mercia Police are now monitoring the setts on a regular basis. I know that Badgers are not universally welcomed due to their possible connection to Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) and culls are still being carried out regularly in some areas. I am sure that the scientists will eventually devise an effective method to tackle the problem but the picture is further confused by the existence of bTB in other species. A herd of deer which tested positive was recently culled in Attingham and a pack of Foxhounds had to be put down a few years ago as they were found to be infected.

Festive Fun

Country walks are often part of the Christmas tradition and can provide a good opportunity to enjoy nature in its many forms. Looking and listening can greatly enhance the experience for walkers of all ages and a bit of competitive gathering of gnawed nuts, acorns and leaves or a bird spotting challenge ticking off bird sightings on a species identification sheet can be fun. There are lots of information sheets available on the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust website www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk along with wildlife friendly projects such as building a log pile for invertebrates.



If you are going to indulge in a bit of armchair gardening please consider local wildlife when planning changes and selecting plants as many can be both decorative and nature-friendly. Whilst some people obsess about only using native plants, buy what suits you as animals only look at what the plant can provide for them, not its provenance.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a nature-friendly New Year.

Terry Green

COUNTRY DIARY - December

What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.

John Steinbeck

As the old year comes to a close, it's a time for reflection, a time for looking both back and forward, and a time to enjoy the festive season. Christmas decorations are still popular but despite being available in the shops, what can be better than foraging the great outdoors for holly, ivy and a yule log. As a lad I recall collecting beech and hazel sticks and taking them home for my mother to spray silver and gold, which she then decorated with small baubles and displayed in a vase. We also made a holly wreath, and had a 'log' which was the bark of an old birch cut in half, sprayed with fake snow and decorated with small deer, snowmen and robins.

The yule log dates back to antiquity and is common across northern Europe in various guises. One tradition is that in houses with huge fireplaces, a tree- trunk would be set in the hearth and the woodchips and ash from the previous year used to light it. Once lit it would burn night and day for the twelve days of Christmas, diminishing in size with the passing of every hour, keeping the family and their visitors warm during the darkest season. It was sometimes anointed with wine, salt or herbs which gave off varying aromas. Different types of trees were used, according to custom, in different countries: oak in England, cherry in Germany, birch in Scandinavia.

Holly was used in pre-Christian times to ward off evil spirits and now represents the crown of thorns from the crucifixion. Mistletoe also pre-dates Christ and the tradition of kissing is English; the original custom being that before each kiss a berry was removed from the sprig, and once all the berries had gone the kissing stopped! I will have to look out for a branch with lots of berries on!

With plenty of food in most houses at this time of year, long country walks are de rigueur to burn off the calories that can accrue from minced pies, fruit cake and chocolate! The smells of mulled wine, hot apple juice with cinnamon, and warm ginger cake can only belong to December. They never seem to carry over beyond the first week of January.

This can be a dead month outdoors, with very little for the countryman to enjoy other than the stillness and sometimes exhilarating cold of a winter walk. You may hear a robin render his ditty in much weaker tones than he will in spring, and the missel thrush, or throstle, can be seen and heard on the highest branch. For the most part, all nature is resting before awakening again in the early spring.

For me it's also a time to tidy up the garden, and visualise the cropping plans for the coming year. A dry spell for a week or so in December allows for some spreading of manure and compost on the vegetable beds, clearing away old plants, washing down the greenhouse glass and burning or composting waste. I love a garden bonfire; it's probably the primeval urge for a winter blaze that gives both heat and light, something our ancestors valued in the long and cold northern winter.

And once the muscles have been stretched with the shovel and wheelbarrow, what better way to end the afternoon than a sit down in the chair with a hot drink, a slice of warm Dorset apple cake and the new season seed catalogues. Is there anything more enticing to the keen gardener in mid-winter than the seed merchant's offerings in their glossy pages? The pictures and descriptions hint of summer, whether it be a new stringless runner bean, clusters of sweet tasting cherry tomatoes, tall and robust African marigolds with fluffy heads in orange and yellow, or a blend of the most delicately fragrant sweet peas.

Pencil and paper in hand, the favoured varieties are listed and the plots sketched out. A row of peas by the path I think, and a new variety of beetroot to try. Oh and maybe a small area for some cut flowers to bring into the house next summer. The planning is endless but I know that the list needs paring down lest I buy enough to share with the entire village! There are so many varieties to try, new types to grow and old favourites to fit in. Whatever I decide to buy, just plotting for the summer garden gives fresh hope for the coming New Year. The anticipation of the soon-to-arrive spring as the daylight increases, albeit imperceptibly after Christmas, can only gladden the heart.

It leaves me to wish you all the complements of the season and to encourage you to get out and about and enjoy our gorgeous countryside during the festive break.

A.J.Selby *-Kindly submitted by Barrie Audis*

CUTNALL GREEN SCHOOL PLANTS A FOREST!

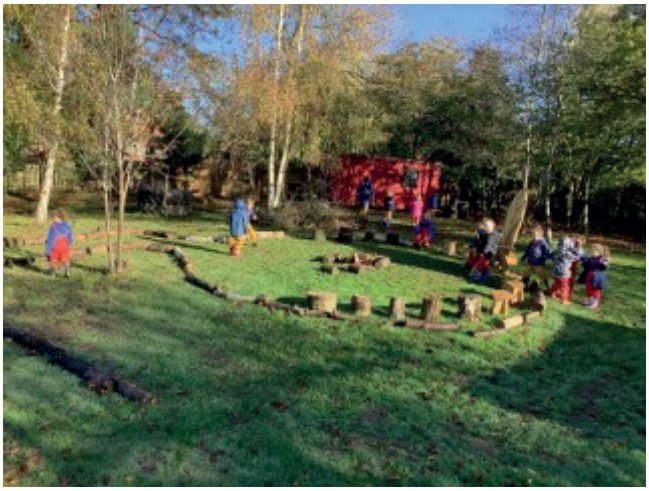
A little while ago, the School applied for some saplings through the Woodland Trust and we were lucky enough to have been one of the schools chosen. This means we've been gifted 400 saplings to plant! Last week the Reception children made a start in planting them - 80 down, 320 to go!



Children in all year groups will be invited to plant a sapling as part of acknowledging and taking responsibility for their own ecological footprint. We can't wait to see how this transforms the area!



They're currently being planted on our school field, initially in a nursery type area, then we will move them once they're a little more established. Children from across the school are coming over to the school field/forest fun area to carry on with the planting, so everyone is involved.



Sam Anderson *Teacher*

FOR SALE AND WANTED

1. Two Bicycles For sale - Man's Raleigh Ogre and Lady's Raleigh Cameo. Both in reasonable condition but may need new tyres. £40 each ONO

   Tel **01905 345716**

2. Bag of 6 Pine Cone Fire Lighters - £4.00



Bags of Kindling - £3.00



Local delivery within the 4 Square parishes for 3 or more bags or available to purchase at Cutnall Green Post Office.



Proceeds go towards fundraising for a conservation and community outreach school trip

Tel **07802 426064**

3. Two Stressless Oxford Blue leather, recliner, swivel chairs, and a Stressless matching footstool in nearly as new condition. Cost new £2960....View and make an offer for the lot of less than £1000.

   A Stressless two-seat Ottoman in matching blue leather with a removable table between the seats in new condition. Cost £1120. View and make an offer of less than £400.

   100 Black roof felt tile shingles,never fixed, sufficient to cover 5M2 (53 sq feet) . £30 the lot.

   2 Azimut electric up-and-over garage door openers complete with chain booms & remote controls, Hardly used, cost over £150 each. Offers of less than £50 each.

   Nr Mustow Green to view Tel **01562 777544**

Please send all of your personal For Sale and Wanted adverts to the Editor for inclusion in the next issue.

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF DUDLEY



What can I give, poor as I am?

Many will be feeling the pinch this Christmas. Inflation, rising energy prices and mortgages, the day-to-day grocery shop costing so much more than it did this time last year, causing deep-seated anxiety about where this will all lead. This makes for troubling times. Some will be fretting over how they can possibly give Christmas gifts to their families, not wanting kids to go short, but wrestling with the balance between putting food on the table and clothes on their bodies and buying that expensive gadget or toy "all their friends have got".

Perhaps this cost-of-living 'permacrisis' gives us an opportunity to rethink our perspectives. At Christmas we remember the incarnate Jesus, born into poverty as a refugee with nowhere to go. Dependant on the kindness of strangers, his parents camped out in an outhouse for the first days of his life, thankful for the basics of a roof over their heads. Yes, we know Jesus also as king, reigning in glory, but this season is when we see him with nothing – helpless, dependent, but loved beyond measure.

Human needs at their most basic are for warmth, shelter, food and relationship. Even in these stretched times, most of us can give thanks for these staples, and reach out to those who don't have them, as an innkeeper did for Mary and Joseph. And rather than buying expensive gifts this year, which we can't really afford, and which will often soon be discarded, perhaps can we give the most precious gift of love, or relationship, our presence instead of our presents?

What can I give? I can give my heart – give my heart in compassion to those more needy than me, give my heart in love for my family and friends, give my heart in pursuing justice and freedom for those who are marginalised or oppressed. I can give my heart in worship and adoration of the Christ-child, who gave his all for me.

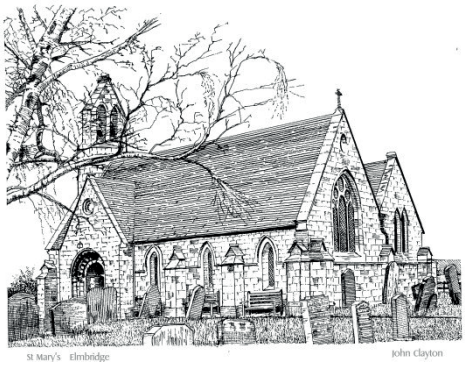
What can I give? More than I could possibly imagine, when I stop to think. Giving our heart costs nothing materially, yet it costs everything relationally. Giving our heart this Christmas could be transformational for us, for our families and friends, for our communities, for the world.

Christmas is about the most wonderful gift of all – God's gift of his Son to us. Let's remember that as we ponder what we can give, poor as we are, and let that lift our perspective to be like that of shepherds and angels, who rejoiced, and gave themselves, gave their hearts, gave what they could, were present.

May you have a blessed Christmas, rejoicing that you are loved, and embracing the presence of Immanuel.

Archdeacon Nikki


WORCESTER FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY
SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 2022 7.30PM
HANDEL MESSIAH
By Candlelight
WORCESTER CATHEDRAL
WORCESTER FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY
MERIDIAN SINFONIA
PHILIPPA HYDE SOPRANO
SARAH DENBEE MEZZO SOPRANO
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REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 506826



ELMBRIDGE NEWS

THE SWINGING SIXTIES

On Friday, 28th November the Friends of Elmbridge held a Hot Supper in Elmbridge Village Hall. We all enjoyed a tasty beef stew followed by a selection of delicious puds.
Our speaker pronounced the apple crumble the best he had ever tasted
Following supper Ray Sturdy gave a fascinating talk and slide show about the Sixties; the music, the fashions, the politics and the scandals. A real reminder and nostalgic memories for many of us. Petrol at four gallons for a pound was particularly interesting!
Thanks to all who helped provide such an enjoyable evening. A healthy sum of £675 was raised for local charities.



ELMBRIDGE CHRISTMAS POST

The post box for the Elmbridge Christmas Post will be placed in the St Mary's Church on Saturday 3rd December. Please only use it for cards for **local delivery** and the **last collection** will be at **6 pm on Sunday 18th December.** Deliveries will be before Christmas!

Donations for the service will be for Acorns Children's Hospice and can be gift aided if wished. Details will be in the church.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

And this is what we are doing



Carol Singing. We will be meeting in the Village Hall on ***Tuesday 20th December*** at ***6.00pm*** for mulled wine and nibbles before setting out on our merry way.



Decorating. We will be dressing our church, ready for the festivities, on ***Thursday 22nd December*** at ***9.30am***. Please come and add your artistic touch and children, don't forget, are very welcome to use their imagination on the tree and the Nativity.



Christmas Day Service. We start at ***10.30am*** and we are delighted that the ***Revd Stephen Winter*** will be leading us and the handbell ringers will once again be entertaining us with their well- rehearsed festive tunes.





COME AND ENJOY A

BIG BREAKFAST



Saturday 4th February, 9.30 – 12 noon

Elmbridge Village Hall

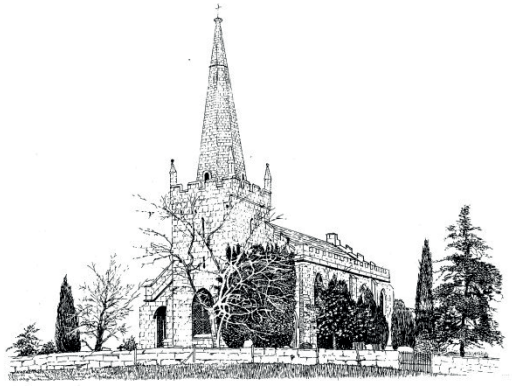


Adults £7.50, children under 5 free.



Nearer the time, please book your place so we know how many to cater for.

Robin Wilson 01299 851658



ELMLEY LOVETT NEWS

Repairs and improvements

Anyone opening up the vestry, or even just coming into the porch, will notice the absence of damp and gloom! The skylights, even in winter, brighten up the space and there are now working lights too!

The recently completed Structural Engineers report confirms our need to urgently refurbish the rainwater drainage system before we attend to the underpinning of the north and south walls of the Vestry and Porch, both of which will lead to significant upheaval in the churchyard. We will intend to undertake this work in the driest time of the year and minimise the impact.

For the forthcoming Carol Service and Midnight mass, it is advisable to bring a torch or use you mobile phone as there is no lighting from the road or up the drive. The conduit supplying power to the Lychgate has failed. It will be replaced when we undertake the drainage works as it needs a trench itself. We will place a temporary lamp in the Lychgate for these two services due to the trip hazard. Thank you for your support as we work to make the Church fit for the future.

The kissing gates recently fell over which allowed the cattle into the graveyard. These have subsequently had a proper farmers repair with baler twine, which has secured the perimeter effectively, however the gates will be rehung with new posts and their functionality will be restored in the New Year.



All Souls Service of Thanksgiving

This is one of the finest services of the year and drew a congregation from all over the Four Square and beyond, who came to remember those whom they had lost.

As the names of each of those who departed this last year were read out, a candle was lit in remembrance. The sun shone brightly, albeit low in the sky, through the south windows whose apex have a small section of stained glass, the effect was to project this splash of colour which tracked across the wall as the service continued.







Remembrance

The Archdeacon of Worcester, Robert Jones, kindly took our service of Remembrance. He delivered a remarkable sermon which had a profound effect on many of us there, encouraging us to be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. How I wish we had recorded this. His message deserved to be heard far beyond the walls of our small church. We will look into a simple streaming service to capture such moments in the future.

Dee Cutler also read the John 15 lesson exactly as King James intended it, clearly and with complete understanding.

The full names of the thirty nine soldiers from the Four Square Parishes who gave their lives in the two world wars were read out individually, with a toll of the half muffled tenor bell rung for each of them.

We still have no information on the following names. If you can shed any light on them, please let me know, so we can make sure they are not forgotten again.

Those who gave their lives in the First World War

Name	*Location of ParishMemorial*
John Aldridge	Cutnall Green School
William John Langley	Cutnall Green School
Charles Worth	Cutnall Green School

Those who gave their lives in the Second World War

Name	*Location of Memorial*
Charles Henry Wright	Hampton and Cutnall Green School
Richard Johnson	Hampton
Charles Henry Wright	Hampton and Cutnall Green School

As always I am very grateful to Neil Cutler who's tolling of the tenor helps to make this service so special and dignified as we take time to remember the names.



Evensong

Elmley holds only one or two Evensongs a year and they are always looked forward too. This year we had a fine service with bell ringing beforehand and three wonderful hymns to mark the start of Advent.

Arlo G brought his Grandparents and lit the first of the Advent candles, in addition to his other sidesman duties which he takes in his stride.



As for all of our services, the church was clean and warm and with lovely flowers. There is a great deal of time and effort which goes unseen in order to deliver these services and it is hoped that those who do it keep on doing so! All that you do is much appreciated by the congregation.

Upcoming services

Dec 11th - Morning Prayer at 10.30am

Dec 18th - Carol Service at 6.30 pm

Dec 24th – Midnight Mass at 11pm

Do come along and support your church. You will be made most welcome.

Richard Cartwright

Articles for Elmley News

Please do not hesitate to send in any items you wish to appear in this section. Historical, topical, artistic, seasonal – poetry, photographs, essays, news, all of which may be anonymous if you so wish. Please just email the editor on *4SquareEditor@btconnect.com* .

Eleanor and Edward's Wedding

22nd October 2002

Ellie White is a familiar figure within The Four Square and considers herself very much a part of this community. Her fiancé Edward Dobson also grew up within its bounds with his family farming close by Elmley Lovett. We felt very much that the good wishes of the whole community were with them on their special day.

It arrived at last and after a week of rain we were blessed with beautiful sunshine and a wonderful blue sky. St Michael's Church had never looked more perfect. This was due very much to the efforts of Richard and Marzena Cartwright who had worked tirelessly and in the face of many emails from the bride's mother, to ensure that the church was polished, brightly lit and warm. Not to mention free of scaffolding!

The beautiful flower arrangements were thanks to the skills of Margaret Harper. Many many thanks to all of you.





While the bride was preparing herself at The Old Post Office in Rushock, supported by Mum, Neil and her brother, Daniel, the groom was waiting somewhat nervously at the church.



The bride was greeted at the church by the glorious sound of bells ringing out across the Worcestershire countryside and a big thank you to the bellringers from Hartlebury, who had had two practises to remind themselves of the vagaries of Elmley's bells.

They were, of course, missing two members, Dee and Neil, who had different roles to play that day. The bride's mother did, however, take a moment to show off her impossibly high heels to her bellringing friends.





Then the bride entered the church on a proud Neil's arm to a wonderful rendition by Nicholas Wright of one of Ellie's favourite pieces, Air on the G string, and accompanied by bridesmaids, her niece, Chloe, Lily and a very smart pageboy, Xandie. All of whom are the godchildren of the bride and groom.



The congregation were warmly welcomed by The Reverend Stephen Winter and the marriage service was conducted by The Reverend Canon Peter Kerr, a family friend who had known Ed since he was a child. While the bride's nephew, Jack and Judith, one of her oldest friends, both read beautifully adding a personal touch to the service.

The hymns were all sung with gusto by the congregation ably assisted by an informal choir of bellringers and the couple emerged from the church into more wonderful sunshine with happy smiles on their faces. The bells rang out again before family and friends moved on to Hartlebury Castle to celebrate this happiest of days.







HAMPTON LOVETT NEWS

Harvest Supper & Grand Draw

Our Harvest Supper was well supported this year with 80 of us sitting down to enjoy a lovely meal together on Saturday 29th October. The cold turkey and ham buffet to start was up to its usual high standard and the variety of homemade sweets to follow were scrumptious as expected. They even included a Ukrainian one kindly made by Lesia and Mariia which proved very popular. If people had any room left there was even cheese and biscuits to follow kindly donated by Marilyn.

After the splendid meal was cleared away we started our Grand Draw. Once again we need to thank people for their generous donations towards the meal and the draw. The prizes just kept on coming……..



The first prize was £100 which was won by Sue & Geoff's grand daughter Lizzie. Tony Lee won the magnificent food hamper and Alison Ricketts the bottle hamper which was so heavy I struggled to lift in and out of my car!

Other prizes included a £50 voucher, a bottle of whiskey, wine, a throw, toiletries, jigsaw, chocolates, biscuits etc. Great returns from a 50p ticket!

The proceeds from the draw (£520) will go towards our Tower Appeal Fund.

Many thanks also to Rachel, our church warden, for leading this event, to people behind the scenes who helped put up and set the tables, helped clear away or wash up,
It was lovely to see so many people at the event, including many new ones. Do come along and support us again.

Dinnie Brimble

Dinnies's ashes were laid to rest in peace near her parents in St Mary's churchyard on Saturday12th November during a short service attended by her family and kindly led by the Rev Stephen Winter.

Others in our thoughts

We send our best wishes to Christine Ellson-Evans as she recovers from her hip operation and also to Ken Twigg who is in hospital and also any other parishioners who are unwell at the moment.

We Must Not Forget



On Sunday 13th November many of us attended a Memorial Service at one of the churches in our Benefice. Although there was no service here at St Mary's, our memorial at the end of the lane was suitably decorated with poppy wreaths donated by the local councils.

A poignant reminder of all the local men who lost their lives due to war and the terrible war still raging in Ukraine.



St Mary's and all Saints Church

Hampton Lovett

Invite you to our

Advent & Christmas Carol Service

(Including our local hand bell ringers)

on

Sunday 11th December @ 6 o'clock

followed by mince pies and a glass of wine





We also invite you to join us at

Our Christmas Eve Communion Service

On

Saturday 24th December at 6.00pm

****Please note there will be no service on Sunday 1st January.***

Here are two stories both with a moral.

Happy Living

A man had four sons. He wanted them to not judge too quickly so he sent them each on a quest in turn to go and look at a pear tree that was quite a distance away.

The first son went in winter, the second in spring, the third in summer and the youngest in autumn. When they had all gone and come back he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said the tree was ugly and twisted. The second son said no- it was covered with green buds and full of promise. The third son disagreed and said it was laden with blossom that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful and it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen. The last son disagreed with them all as he said it was drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfilment.

The father then explained to them that they were all right because they had seen the tree in only one season of its life.

He told them that you can't judge a tree or person by only one season and that the essence of who we are – and the pleasure, joy and love that comes from life – can only be measured at the end, when our seasons are up.

If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of spring, the beauty of your summer and the fulfilment of your autumn.

Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest.



The Teacher

An old retired teacher met a younger man who asked him "Do you remember me?"

The teacher said he didn't so the younger man tells him he used to be his student.

The teacher then asked him what he did in life and he told him he was a teacher too.

He said he became one because he had been so inspired by his former teacher to be like him.

He then told his story…..

One day, a friend of mine came in to class with a really nice watch which I wanted so I stole it from him. When my friend noticed it was missing he immediately complained to the teacher who of course was you.

You addressed the whole class saying “This student’s watch has been stolen during class today. Whoever stole it please return it” I didn’t own up.

You closed the door and told us all to stand up and form a circle as you were going to search our pockets one by one until the watch was found. However, you told us all to close our eyes.

You went from pocket to pocket and when you went through mine of course you found the watch and took it. You continued round the circle until everyone had been searched and then you told us to open our eyes as the watch had been found. You didn’t tell on me and never ever mentioned the episode.

You saved my dignity forever but it was the most shameful day of my life.

That day I decided not to become a thief or a bad person. You never said anything, nor did you scold me or take me aside to give me a moral lesson but I received your message clearly.

Thanks to you I understand what a real educator needs to do. Do you remember the episode professor?

The old professor answered

“Yes I remember the situation with the stolen watch and searching through all the pockets. I didn’t remember you because I also had my eyes shut……”

This is the essence of teaching.

“If to correct you must humiliate, you don’t know how to teach”

A few thoughts for this month….

TIME is free but it is priceless. You can’t own it but you can use it. You can’t keep it but you can spend it. Once you’ve lost it you can never get it back.

Commonsense is a flower that does not grow in everyone’s garden.

Men say women should come with instructions…. What’s the point of that?

Have you ever seen a man actually read any instructions?

You know you are getting old when you barely do anything all day, but still need a nap to continue to do barely anything!

Wine improves with age. The older I get the better I like it.

In life it is important to know when to stop arguing with someone and simply let them be wrong.

Women have only two problems. 1. Nothing to wear. 2. No room for all their clothes.

The adult version of head, shoulders knees and toes is phone, wallet, keys and glasses.

I have great taste but I don’t have the money to prove it.

Housework can’t kill you but why take the chance.

I’m never sure if I actually have free time or I’m just forgetting everything I should do.

Friends aren’t the ones who make your problems disappear but the ones who won’t disappear when you’re facing problems.

Be yourself because an original is worth more than a copy.

Sometimes we have to let go of the picture of what we think life should be and find joy in the life we are living. Whatever you decide to do make sure it brings a smile to your face and joy to your heart.

All mankind is divided into three classes, those that are immovable, those that are movable and those that move.

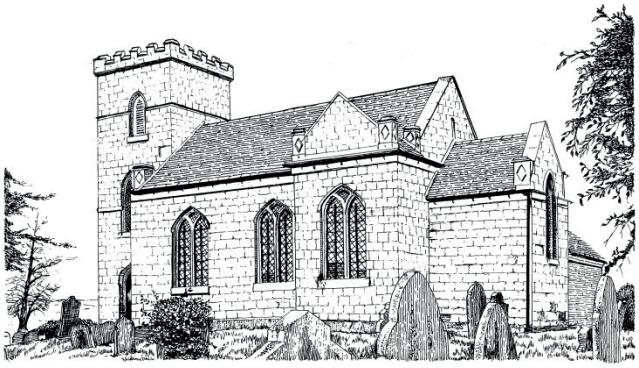
One man’s wage increase is another man’s price increase.

And lastly, “Adultery is a sin; you can’t have your Kate and Edith too”

We wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We’ll be back in 2023

Margaret Vertigen



RUSHOCK NEWS

Recent Arrivals

We in Rushock would like to extend a big welcome to Neil and Tracey Platt who have recently moved into the Old Dutch Barn, Clattercut Lane and we hope they will have many happy years here.

We would also like to welcome Jacky Chapman and Gordon Massey who have moved into Little Gains, Clattercut Lane and wish them many happy years in Rushock

Sue Horton

Rushock Harvest Celebrations

The harvest family service in Rushock is always a lovely occasion and this year was no exception. As always an enthusiastic working party had made sure the Church was decorated beautifully with flowers and produce. The children played an important role in the service with readings, prayers and poems from Archie Morris, Eliza Morris, Poppy Palmer, Amelia Palmer and Molly Jones. Sophie Jennings also enjoyed describing what harvest time was like for farmers many years ago before machinery was available.

The service was followed by a delicious buffet in the village hall. This was accompanied by the famous 'Harvest Perry' and wine to celebrate the harvest.

Many thanks to everyone who was involved in supporting this event and a particular note of thanks to John and Marge Nicholls and Maureen Cooper who had been up very early preparing the food!




In Memory of the Rev. E.A. Bevan. Rector of this Parish
ChildLine
WARNING
DONATIONS



Halloween in Rushock

If you happened to be out on the lanes at dusk on Sunday October 30th you may have been in for a fright! Several families came together for the annual 'trick or treat' walk. The adults as well as the children had made a great effort to dress as spookily as they could and there were some fantastic costumes. Many thanks to the brave residents who offered to have a 'trick' and for the generous treats which the children very much enjoyed. The walk finished at the village hall where further refreshments were enjoyed amongst the eerie decorations which included a ginormous spider! Many thanks to everyone who helped make this another lovely Halloween in Rushock.

Clare Jennings











RUSHOCK FAMILY NATIVITY SERVCE



Rushock PCC are pleased to announce the return of the Annual Nativity Service to be held on Christmas Eve at 3pm.
This will be a lovely family service led by Dee Cutler including a Nativity performance by the Rushock Children.

All welcome

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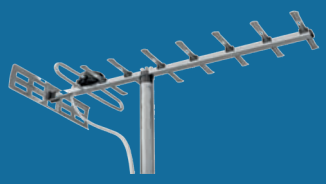
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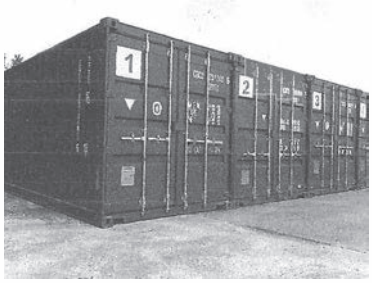


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DECEMBER 2022

Service schedule

THE FOUR SQUARE PARISHES

Elmley Lovett, Hampton Lovett
Elmbridge, Rushock

DATE	LITURGICAL COLOURS	TIME	CHURCH	FESTIVAL/ SUNDAY	SERVICE/ LEADER	SIDESMAN	READER	FLOWERS	LESSONS
Dec 4th	PURPLE	9.00am	Hampton Lovett	2nd Sunday of Advent	HC-CW	Rachel Wyatt & James Homer		No Flowers	Isaiah 11:1-10 Rom 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
		10.30am	Elmbridge		HC-CW	Janet Miller & Lee Morton		Sylvia Clift	
Dec 11th	PURPLE	9.00am	Rushock	3rd Sunday of Advent	HC-CW			Pam Cummins	Isaiah 35:1-10 Jas:5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11
		10.30am	Elmley Lovett		MP-BCP	Guy Cartridge	Tim Goss		
		6.00pm	Hampton Lovett		Carol Service	Various		Flower Committee	
Dec 18th	PURPLE	9.00am	Elmbridge	4th Sunday of Advent	HC-CW	Robert & Gay Carr		Betty Shuck	Isaiah 7:10-16 Rom 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-end
		6.30pm	Elmley Lovett		Nine Lessons and Carols	Various			
Dec 24th	PURPLE	3.00pm	Rushock	Christmas Eve	Crib Service	Various			2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16 Acts 13:16-26 Luke 1:67-79
		6.00pm	Hampton Lovett		HC-CW	Various		Flower Committee	
		11.00pm	Elmley Lovett		HC-BCP	Judy Bromage	Richard Cartwright		
Dec 25th	WHITE	9.00am	Rushock	Christmas Day	HC-CW			Nicola Palmer & Theresa Morris	Isaiah 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-4(5-12) John 1:1-14;
		10.30am	Elmbridge		HC-CW *Stephen Winter*	Chirchwardens		Sue Allen	

KEY : **BCP** - Book of Common Prayer, **CW** - Common Worship, **HC** - Holy Communion, **MP** - Morning Prayer, **ES** - Evensong

JANUARY 2023

Service schedule

THE FOUR SQUARE PARISHES

Elmley Lovett, Hampton Lovett
Elmbridge, Rushock

DATE	LITURGICAL COLOURS	TIME	CHURCH	FESTIVAL/ SUNDAY	SERVICE/ LEADER	SIDESMAN	READER	FLOWERS	LESSONS
Jan 1st	WHITE	11.00 am	ZOOM	2nd Sunday of Christmas	Stephen Winter				Isa 63:7-9 Heb 2:10-end Matthew 2:13-end
Jan 8th	GOLD or WHITE	9.00am	Rushock	Baptism of Christ	HC-CW *Stephen Winter*				Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-end
		10.30am	Elmley Lovett		MP-BCP *James Homer*	Marzena Cartwright	Dee Cutler		
Jan 15th	WHITE	9.00am	Elmbridge	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	HC-CW *Stephen Winter*	Anne Judge		Jane Wylie	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians1:1-9 John 1:29-42
		6.00pm	Hampton Lovett		ES-BCP	Rachel Wyatt & Michele Powell		Rachel Wyatt	
Jan 22nd	WHITE	9.00am	Elmley Lovett	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	HC-BCP *Stephen Winter*	Judy Bromage	Tim Goss		Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Cor 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23
Feb 5th	GREEN	9.00am	Hampton Lovett	3rd Sunday before Lent	HC-CW *Stephen Winter*				Isaiah 58:1-9a 1 Cor 2:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20
		10.30am	Elmbridge		HC-CW *Stephen Winter*				

KEY : **BCP** - Book of Common Prayer, **CW** - Common Worship, **HC** - Holy Communion, **MP** - Morning Prayer, **ES** - Evensong

