

# PARISH NEWS



**St John's Church  
Marchington Woodlands**

**St Peter's Church  
Marchington**

**DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021**

## **WELCOME to the PARISH NEWS for DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021**

Desktop Publishing: Rhoda Castle  
[rhoda.castle@outlook.com](mailto:rhoda.castle@outlook.com)

Website: <https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net>



Please be in touch with any news, articles or updates on your club or organisation by email to Rhoda. No more than 425 words in length, please. Advertisements, both for businesses and for village events, should also be sent to Rhoda. These will attract a small charge. A special deal for repeat adverts by businesses is available: details available on request.

**The next Parish News is the February issue. Deadline for copy is  
12th January.**

*Parish News* is distributed by volunteers in the parishes of St John's, Marchington Woodlands and St Peter's, Marchington. If you wish to receive a regular copy please contact our Head of Distribution, Mike Williamson (01283 820407). There is an annual subscription rate of £9 for a paper copy of the magazine delivered to your door. The online edition of the magazine is freely available on our website <https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net> and includes colour photographs and live hyperlinks. Previous issues of the magazine are available online at <https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net/archive>

Subscriptions are collected every July and cover the period up to the following June. Newcomers to the village are welcome to have a complimentary copy, so if someone has moved in near to you please let Mike know.

### **St Peter's Contacts**

Priest in charge: Rev Margaret Sherwin, Rector, Tel: 01889 560234

Licensed Reader: Maggie Hatchard, 1 Church Close Tel: 01283 820207

St Peter's Ministry Team: Thelma Brassington, Maggie Hatchard, Fiona Needs, Liz Morgan.

St Peter's Church Wardens: Lynda Nicholson, Rose Cottage, Church Lane.

Tel: 01283 821374; Sandy Halcrow, Coverdale, Allens Lane. Tel: 01283 820346

PCC Secretary: Kate Hart

Church Website: [www.stpetersmarchington.org.uk](http://www.stpetersmarchington.org.uk)

# VIEW FROM TEANHURST CLOSE

*Rev Irene Smith tells us that in spite of the restrictions we may face this year, Christmas can never really be cancelled.*

Dear friends,

As I write this letter, we are not even in Advent yet and everyone is wondering what Christmas will be like this year. Will the coronavirus pandemic still be raging on December 25<sup>th</sup>? Will it be possible for us to visit our loved ones, even if they live fairly near to us, to share presents in the flesh and relish the warmth of a beautiful family Christmas dinner?

It is possible that festive greetings may have to be on smartphones and iPads and tablets instead of face to face this year, rather than around the dinner table. Work parties and dinners look likely to be off the menu in 2020 in every part of the country as no more than six people may be allowed to gather in any area. The days of people inviting their neighbours to drop round for Christmas or New Year drinks are also on hold.

But can Christmas ever really be cancelled or ruined because of unusual circumstances? I read in the newspaper today that a Paris hospital director was calling upon President

Macron to cancel Christmas. People think that it was “banned” in the time of Oliver Cromwell but, at that time, Parliament frowned upon the kind of celebrations of Christmas that were in vogue, not the fact of Christmas, disliking all the waste, extravagance, disorder and immorality of the Christmas celebrations. They were encouraging people to keep it as a time of fasting and to spend it in respectful contemplation. Shops and markets were told to stay open on 25 December, and in the City of London soldiers were ordered to patrol the streets, seizing any food they discovered being prepared for Christmas celebrations!

When Christmas approaches, let's remember how lucky we are that the smell of our turkey being cooked and the sight of holly decorating our front door won't make us liable for arrest!

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for the Church, not just the run up to the celebration of the birth of a baby, at Christmas, but a time of looking forward to when this baby, Jesus, will return; not this time as a

helpless baby but in all his power and glory as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. So really, it is impossible to cancel Christmas but we just may have to celebrate it a bit differently!

May I wish you a stress free Christmas and a peaceful New Year that fulfils your expectations as we celebrate the

birth of a very special baby who grew up to change the world. Whatever you are hoping and waiting for in 2021, I hope and pray that it will be worth the wait.

Yours in Christ,  
Irene  
December, 2020

## **Victor Herbert Perriman - 3 August 1926 to 19 October 2020**

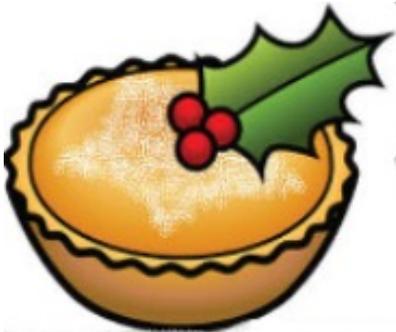
Sue & Tony Butler and family would like to express our thanks to friends and neighbours for their kind thoughts and support, following the recent passing of dad.

Thank you also for the kind and generous donations to Alzheimer's Research UK in his memory."

## **Mince Pies**

The weekend of the 12th/13th of December would in normal circumstances be our postal weekend in the village hall. We still have various things going on during Advent/Christmas for the church in the village (see pages 5 & 6).

Joyce Halcrow and Thelma Brassington are prepared to make mince pies in aid of Church funds. In order to do this in the present situation we would like:



- Orders to us by email by the latest date of 10th December. [sandynjoyce2@gmail.com](mailto:sandynjoyce2@gmail.com) or [thelmabrassington@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thelmabrassington@yahoo.co.uk)
- A name and time you can collect from us on the 12/13th.
- Price per half dozen £1.50. Up to one dozen per person.
- Social distancing applies; please leave correct change in the box by the door.

# **CHRISTMAS at ST PETER'S CHURCH**

Despite the Coronavirus St Peter's Church is celebrating Christmas this year in different ways, ones that we hope you will participate in.

## **ADVENT CALENDAR**

During December, every day between 4pm and 8pm an advent calendar will be open throughout the village. Upstairs windows will be decorated and lit. Numbers from 1-23 can be found displayed at street level at each house for you to plot where the windows are. A map for plotting where the windows are situated will be available from the shop. Number 24 will be at the church - only displayed from Christmas Eve. This is being organised through Messy Church and the Edward Bear Club. A small prize for the family who plots the windows correctly will be awarded. Please return your completed map to Maggie Hatchard at 1 Church Close by 1st January.

## **NATIVITY**

The story of the Nativity can be accessed online. This will be recorded in church and will be available to see at Marchington St Peter's YouTube page. It will be available to view from Christmas week onwards.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

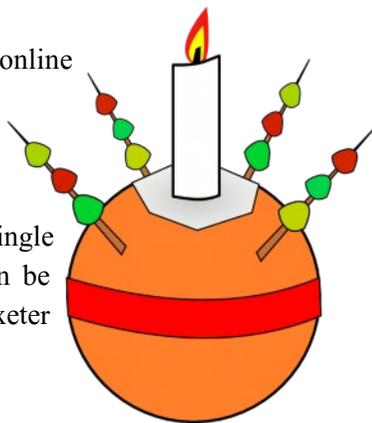
A Christmas Eve service - hopefully - will take place in St Peter's church at 2pm on 24<sup>th</sup> December. This is in place of the midnight service. **BOOKING** is essential as there are limited places available. Please phone Sandy and Joyce Halcrow on 820346.

## **OTHER CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Lichfield Cathedral are streaming services online throughout December and these can be accessed from their website.

## **CHRISTINGLE**

Rev Margaret Sherwin is producing a Christingle service online from Advent Sunday - this can be accessed on Youtube. Search Youtube for Uttoxeter St Mary's CofE Church.



## DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a phone line. The line - which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 - has been set up particularly for those unable to join online church services.

## Christmas Card Deliveries

Would you like your local Christmas cards delivered for a fraction of the cost of a stamp? Tom and Rhoda Castle will be delivering cards in Marchington village, Marchington Woodlands and Birch Cross in time for Christmas. They will charge 15p per card, and the money raised will be donated to St Peter's Church.

- Over the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> December, bring your cards to 1 Church Close between 11am and 3pm.
- On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December, bring your cards to 27 Woodland Views between 1pm and 4pm.
- If you have difficulty dropping off your cards in this way, please phone us on 07432 110178 and we will come and collect your cards.

Social distancing will apply when bringing us cards for delivery. Please drop your cards and the correct money into the boxes provided. To minimise risk, we will not be giving change.

## Christmas door wreaths

These will be available from Maggie Hatchard, 1 Church Close, over the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December, between 11.00am and 3.00pm.. If you would like to order one phone Maggie on 820207 or email [maggiehatchard@gmail.com](mailto:maggiehatchard@gmail.com). After that they will be available from the shop.

You can also drop off your Christmas cards for local delivery, plus the correct money, with Maggie at 1 Church Close between 11am and 3pm on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December.



# Greetings

The Wardens and PCC of St Peter's wish every reader a  
Joyous & Blessed Christmas,  
and  
Happiness & Peace throughout the coming year  
when we hope that normal service will be resumed.

## Booking to Attend Church Services

Church services will resume in December if permitted under the Covid restrictions. To ensure that we are able to maintain social distancing, pre-booking has been introduced for three of the services.

**Christmas Eve Service 2.00pm at St Peter's**

To pre-book contact Joyce Halcrow 01283 820346; sandynjoyce2@gmail.com

**Christmas Day Service at St John's**

To pre-book contact Graham Salt 01283 821587; mobile 07759 238388;  
gsalt799@btinternet.com

**27<sup>th</sup> December at St Mary's Uttoxeter**

Information about whom to contact will be on the Parish News web site  
<https://www.marchingtonparishnews.net> as soon as it is available.



## St Peter's Edward Bear Club

For birth to nursery aged children and mums, dads or carers.

We have moved Edward Bear club into the 21st century by holding weekly 'Houseparty' calls. We meet virtually on Wednesday mornings at 10am. If anyone would like to join us at the Edward Bear club when we decide to meet in person

again, please let Thelma Brassington (01283 820447) know and she will be in touch when there is any progress.

# Merry Christmas



Dear friends, we have decided again not to send or deliver Christmas cards, but do wish you and your families a wonderful time together. Even if we do end up paying for the expected seasonal liberation with a two week isolation in January, make Christmas merry and joyful at least!

*Love from Mark and Geraldine Flavell xx*

To wish all our friends and neighbours a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

*John and Thelma Brassington*

Wishing you all a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

*Carolyn and Julian Blakemore*

Wishing all my friends and neighbours a peaceful Christmas and a healthy new year.

*Blessings, Sue Grimley.*



Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

*Love, Janette & Chris Prince*

Instead of cards this year we have made donations to BreastCancerNow and The MS Society

Have a happy Christmas, making new memories, celebrating the Christ Child's message of love, peace and hope. Thanks to all who have helped within our Church communities this year.

*Margaret, Joe and all in the Uttoxeter Area Team.*



Wishing all our friends and neighbours a peaceful , happy Christmas and a happy new year.

*Eric Carter and Family*

Happy Christmas to all my friends in Marchington and hoping for a happier new year.

*Lots of love, Sue Sewell*

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

*Ralph and Lynda Nicholson*

Wishing our friends and neighbours a peaceful & happy Christmas, and a healthy new year.

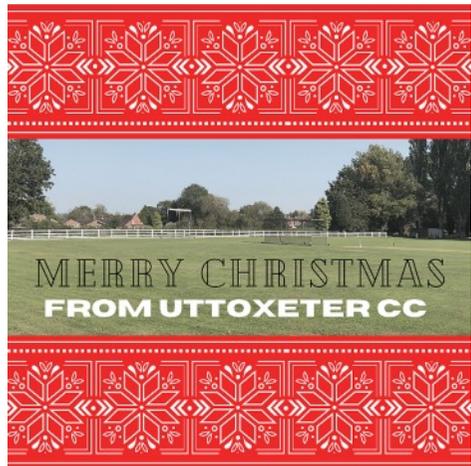
*Best wishes from Fiona, Robert, and Lani Neads.*

Wish everyone in Marchington a wonderful Christmas and a better new year.

*John and Judy Landells.*

Wishing all our friends in Marchington a happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful new year.

*Ian Jones and Clare Parker.*





Sunday 20 December 2020  
 Luke 1:26-38  
 4th Sunday of Advent

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

The Angel Gabriel says to Mary, "Hail, full of grace", and tells her she is to have a baby who will be the Son of the Most High. Mary trusts God and says she will do whatever God wants.

# HAIL MARY

1. Yellow
2. Blue
3. Orange
4. Purple
5. Skin
6. Pale blue

Colour the shapes with the correct colour and you will see the picture of Mary saying yes to the angel.



## I can say "yes"

We say "yes" to God when we bring love and kindness into the world.



Join the dots and then draw yourself in the angel's wings, bringing love to people you live with later today.

## Sudoku

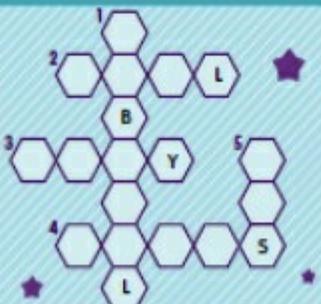
Can you fill the grid with the letters **MARY** in each row, each column and each mini-grid?



Make sure that no letter is repeated!

## Crossword

1. What was the angel's name? ☆
2. The angel's "hello". ☆
3. Who did the angel come to see? ☆
4. What was the baby going to be called? ☆
5. What did Mary say? ☆



## A PRAYER TO SAY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Amen.

# **MARCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Chairman's Report - December 2020**

Writing this article in mid-November we are in the middle of our second lockdown period looking forward to 2<sup>nd</sup> December when we should emerge into the Tier system again. Who knows what we will be allowed to do on Christmas Day? At this moment with the incidence of Covid 19 in Marchington still prevalent we should all keep our distance from friends and neighbours hoping that a vaccine will allow some normal life in 2021.

Parish Council meetings have continued via Zoom and four residents were still able to present their cases for small grants in the November PC Meeting. Significant matters discussed in the November Meeting included:

### **Jacks Lane Development**

An on-site meeting took place between our ESBC Councillor and an ESBC Planning Officer to discuss the position of the fence and the planting of a hedge at the first bungalow. Matters are still on-going with Chevin Homes.

### **Flood Defences**

Some at risk properties in the lower part of the village, including the Community Shop, have had flood gates installed which is a step in the right direction ready for the next flood event. Natural Flood Management (NFM) has been taking place upstream from the main village since November 2019. Please see an article on page 14 of this magazine. In addition, the Environment Agency (EA) has money in a budget to spend on re-instating the bund behind Church Close raising the height by 20cm in places up to the highest point on the bund currently. It is hoped with this re-enforcement it will give up to an additional hour's protection. Discussions are still ongoing between the landowner and the EA.

### **Green Lane**

Significant works have been carried out by Staffordshire County Council this month with potholes infilled and culverts dug out. The area where the stream has been eroding the road has been re-enforced with limestone cobbles. This is a major improvement for residents and dog walkers. The remaining issue to be dealt with is the tree near the start of the road which requires felling due to safety concerns.

### **Village Greening**

It has been suggested by a resident that the PC should consider planting trees in the grass verge between the pavement and the road towards the end of Jacks Lane and to plant wild flowers between the trees on the edge of the Silver Lane Playing Field adjacent the brook.

Before any serious consideration can be given to this, the PC needs to know particularly what the residents of Jacks Lane think about trees being planted there with road safety being one of the considerations. Please express your views to the Parish Clerk for or against these suggestions at [marchingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:marchingtonpc@gmail.com) or Tel. 07549 164641.

### **Christmas Trees in the Parish**

The PC voted in November to purchase 3 Christmas trees for the parish. It is proposed for one tree to be erected outside Marchington Village Hall, another at the Woodlands Village Hall and a third tree to be erected at Forestside if a suitable location can be found.

### **Footpaths and Stiles**

It has been reported by residents that a number of footpaths in the Woodlands have been blocked or overgrown, and that stiles in some places are in need of repair. In addition a footbridge and handrail on the well-used walk between Green Lane and the St Peter's Church are in need of replacement. The relevant bodies are to be contacted to sort these issues in the Woodlands and village.

### **Faster Broadband**

It is not too late to sign up for your interest in faster broadband. Please do so at [www.marchingtonshop.co.uk/faster-fibre-broadband](http://www.marchingtonshop.co.uk/faster-fibre-broadband). The more people who sign up the bigger the budget that will be available.

### **Marchington Village Hall and Marchington Woodlands Village Hall**

Sadly all activities at these halls has ceased during the current lockdown but we look forward to them perhaps re-opening in December. The Trustees of Marchington Village Hall have offered the hall as a vaccination centre if required.

### **Marchington Parish Councillor Vacancy**

Due to the resignation of one councillor due to work commitments we currently have a vacancy for a councillor to be co-opted. If you have any interest in being a councillor please contact the Parish Clerk at [marchingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:marchingtonpc@gmail.com).

On behalf of Marchington Parish Council I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope that 2021 sees a restoration of normal life in our lovely parish.

Andrew C Mann

## **Marchington Buddies**

The Buddies who helped the vulnerable and those shielding during the first lockdown have been re established for the second one . Over 45 people offered their services to help anyone who needed it in our parish. Even for this second phase the majority of volunteers from the first lockdown offered themselves again. Only a small number were unable to get involved this time because of work commitments. So coordinating activities with the community shop, who hold the list of Buddies contacts, the system appears to have worked well. We have also attracted praise from organisations in the surrounding area, so much so that Support Staffordshire are urging us to sign ourselves up to their Good Neighbour Scheme. I hope, by the time you read this in December, the lockdown will have been lifted and we will all be able to resume a more normal life. However, it is gratifying to know that there are a large number of people here committed to helping out others who need it.

If you want to know more about this activity or indeed want to volunteer please contact me, Ian Morgan on 07841 363656.

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a much better New Year.

Ian Morgan

### **MAKE A CHANGE - BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR**

**IF YOU CARE ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE AND ARE  
PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY,  
WE NEED YOU**

Marchington Parish Council is looking to co-opt a parish councillor to fill a vacancy.

To apply you need to be available to attend monthly meetings.

**Please contact the Clerk for further details:**

**Email: [marchingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:marchingtonpc@gmail.com)**

**Tel: 07549 164641**

## **Natural Flood Management - Small Grants Scheme**

Flooding is a growing concern across the country. It is more frequent and often has devastating impacts – last winter was testimony to that. It's not that we are getting more annual rainfall, it's that we are getting our annual rainfall in concentrated bursts and then suffering drought. The village of Marchington does not escape the impacts of these ever more familiar weather patterns.

There are a number of things that can exacerbate flooding; poorly thought out housing developments, sewer issues, drain maintenance issues and poor water management upstream. Therefore alleviating the effects of flooding requires a multi-faceted approach. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) has been awarded funding by the Environment Agency to work upstream in the Marchington Brook catchment. The aim is to store, slow the flow and clean the water before it gets to the village in order to reduce the height of the flood peak and give the village more time to prepare for the onset of flooding. The techniques used come under the banner of Natural Flood Management (NFM). The Environment Agency are working on traditional flood management measures in the village itself.

Kate Jones, Conservation Officer with SWT, has been working in the Marchington Brook Catchment since November 2019. She has been engaging with landowners and encouraging them to have a farm water management plan carried out. These plans are fully funded by SWT and identify issues and opportunities on landholdings for water storage and cleaning, whilst also offering benefits to the farming business. They provide the information required for the allocation of funds to landowners for carrying out this work; this will be done through a Small Grants Scheme which, subject to funding, launches in 2021.

The Small Grants Scheme will allow landowners to apply for funding towards rainwater goods, yard concreting, fencing, hardcoring gateways and installing water troughs among many other things. The funding for these measures will be based on Countryside Stewardship rates, whereas creation of storage pools, wetlands or reedbed systems will be 100% funded by SWT.

Natural Flood Management requires a lot of landowners to be delivering what they can on their land. Cumulatively it can lead to a huge amount of water being stored or slowed down. Cleaning the water also helps with the post-flood clean up and has the potential to reduce the amount of maintenance that assets such as culverts and drains require due to blockages caused by siltation. We are asking

for landowners in the catchment upstream of the village to consider having a farm water management plan carried out. This is fully funded by SWT and will set landowners up to apply for available funding in 2020/21.

We have carried out work on a demonstration farm in the catchment with the hopes of having a farm visit in the New Year for people in the local area. It would be an opportunity to see the types of measures on offer and to find out more about the scheme. This may not be possible due to Covid-19 restrictions, but if we can go ahead safely we will.

If you are interested in the project and in having a farm water management plan carried out, please call Kate Jones on 07908 265 527.

## **MARCHINGTON W.I.**

As I sit down to write this article we are facing the second Covid lockdown. Sadly our last monthly meeting was held in March and goodness knows when we will be able to hold a full meeting again.

The committee have met and discussed various matters including the Financial Statement and Annual Committee Report for this year. Both of these documents were sent to members and have now been forwarded to County as is the requirement.

Members have also been advised of the closing of Denman College for financial reasons and more recently of the five resolutions that have been put forward for them to consider.

They are interesting topics to consider namely a) Racism and discrimination; b) Preventing women from dying prematurely from heart disease; c) Increased awareness of ovarian cancer; d) To protect nature and space to create wildlife; and e) Stopping the destruction of peat bogs. The resolutions will then be shortlisted and finalised for the NFWI annual meeting in April 2021.

As we don't know what plans will be in place after December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we can only hope that it may be possible to get together again in the New Year. In the meantime I hope you will be able to spend time with your families and enjoy the festive season.

*Sheila Jones*

## MARCHINGTON VILLAGE SHOP



The shop financial 'year end' is August and normally we would be having a public AGM about now, at which we present the figures for the year.

That's not happening this year, but I can report that the profit for the year of £9,191 is well above Budget and 2019 due to increased sales and to the grants we have received. This is despite the loss of most of the normal fundraising we would do. Our percentage margin is lower than expected, and we put this down to the rather hectic increased buying and selling we did to support our customers in March, April and May in particular.

On page 17 is a summary of the financial figures. Terry (our Treasurer) and I are happy to receive any comments or questions by email to [info@marchingtonshop.co.uk](mailto:info@marchingtonshop.co.uk), please.

In the meantime, we are getting ready for Christmas with new supplies of greeting cards, seasonal foods and drinks, and some great wine offers and have also have increased our range of popular magazines.

Liz Morgan

(Chair, Marchington Village Shop)

MARCHINGTON COMMUNITY SHOP LIMITED

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS	ACTUAL		BUDGET		VARIANCE		VARIANCE	
	12 Months 31/08/20	%	12 Months 31/08/20	%	v BUDGET	%	12 Months 31/08/19	v 2019
	£		£		£		£	£
Shop Receipts	136605	100.0%	120000	100.0%	16605		120737	15868
Cost of Sales	106352	77.9%	91200	76.0%	-15152		91824	-14528
<b>GROSS MARGIN</b>	<b>30253</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>28800</b>	<b>24.0%</b>	<b>1453</b>		<b>28913</b>	<b>1340</b>
<b>OVERHEADS</b>								
Wages, Newspaper Delivery & Bookkeeping	25104	18.4%	24750	20.6%	-354		24354	-750
Other Operating Costs	13904	10.2%	13820	11.5%	-84		13843	-61
	<b>39008</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>38570</b>	<b>32.1%</b>	<b>-438</b>		<b>38197</b>	<b>-811</b>
<b>OPERATING PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>-8755</b>	<b>-6.4%</b>	<b>-9770</b>	<b>-8.1%</b>	<b>1015</b>		<b>-9284</b>	<b>529</b>
<b>DONATIONS &amp; GRANTS ETC</b>								
50 : 50 Club	3925		3650		275		3450	475
Grant ESBC - Covid19	10000		0		10000		0	10000
Grant ESBC - Flooding	2789		0		2789		0	2789
Donations & Events	2186		6000		-3814		7124	-4938
	<b>18900</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>9650</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>9250</b>		<b>10574</b>	<b>8326</b>
<b>PROFIT/LOSS BEF DEP'N</b>	<b>10145</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>-120</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>10265</b>		<b>1290</b>	<b>8855</b>
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>-218</b>		<b>548</b>	<b>-406</b>
<b>NET PROFIT/ LOSS</b>	<b>9191</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>-856</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>10047</b>		<b>742</b>	<b>8449</b>

## **PORT – the drink for Christmas**

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries Port from the Douro Valley of Portugal became known as ‘the Englishman’s wine’. Portugal is Britain’s oldest ally - going back to 1373 - and during wars with France and Spain, Port was sometimes the only wine available in England. Port also keeps better because it is fortified with brandy so has a longer life than still table wine.

Around 80% of Port is sold over the Festive Season when it is hugely popular. Port makes the perfect end to a memorable meal and is surprisingly good with fruit desserts, chocolate and of course cheese. It also makes a very acceptable gift.

## **Bulls Head Marchington Football Club**

Marchington’s local Sunday league football club is helping to improve the facilities down at Silver Lane. Following the Parish Councils’ financing of a new car park and improved roadway, the football club has spent £2,500 in improving the two pitches. Following a successful grant application from the Football Foundation (part of the FA), both pitches have been weed killed, shock waved, reseeded, and other work has been applied to improve the playing surfaces. We have also invested in new, full size goals for the main pitch and renewed the goals on the 7-a-side pitch following a generous donation from a local resident. This is not the end of the activity but really just the beginning of a rolling 10 year improvement programme which I will tell you more about in the next update.

I am pleased to announce that the football club has started the season well having played 5, won 4, and drawn 1, leaving us top of the league. Long may this continue. In these uncertain times of Covid-19 we thank everyone for the growing support we receive at our home matches . On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November I counted more than 90 people watching the game. The club has also signed up to the Governments track and trace system and we have a QR code for Silver Lane . We also have hand sanitiser stations for all to use. We will continue to work closely with the Parish Council, Uttoxeter Cricket Club , The Bulls Head and other bodies to improve the facilities for all parishioners.

Finally , a big thank you to our generous sponsors for their support. They are: Abode, Angus Mackinnon Ltd, Belmont Shotblasting Ltd, Brit Plant Direct, Busy Bees Childcare, Colshaw Construction Group, Grant Fallows Plumbing and Heating, JS Quality Meats, NJW Joinery and Palletforce.

On behalf of the football club may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Ian Morgan

## Celebrate ten years of The Village Shop while stocks of PORT last!

### Croft Fine Ruby Port

This is a lighter-style Ruby Port with aromas of berry fruit which has been matured in oak for around three years. Ideal with fruit based desserts or blue cheese it is also a good after-dinner drink.

*£11.99*



### Croft 430 Celebration Reserve Port in gift drum



Founded in 1588, Croft is one of the oldest Port houses and created a limited edition Reserve Port to celebrate this anniversary.

A full-bodied Ruby Port with flavours of cherry and blackberry it is packed in a traditional old style bottle showing an illustration of the 1588 Armada invasion which took place in the same year.

A superb gift! *£17.95*

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*£12.99*

### Fonseca Port miniature gift pack

Three different miniatures of Fonseca in one gift pack allow you to experience the dark plum of LBV, the luscious Bin 27 Reserve and the delicate fruit of Siroco White Port. The perfect stocking filler! *£9.99*



## Marchington Village Hall News - December 2020



### Is it April yet?

First, an apology to our neighbours. The noise from the ten weddings, twelve parties, eight dances and five raves, held just this month, must have been a real nuisance. We don't blame you for calling the police out on 17 occasions and we are really sorry for the all-nighter pulled by a popular villager celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dancing until dawn is a tough ask in November!

The Thursday afternoon tea dances have been very popular and the capacity crowds meant that leaving all the doors wide open was a pleasure and not just a legal requirement.

I must confess to having had a few strange dreams recently...

...but don't forget that when this particular nightmare is over, Marchington Village Hall will be available to hirers as soon as we're allowed to open.

We are a Covid-safe environment and will be open for business again the very day we are permitted to be.

If you want to book the Hall, call Gill Williamson on 820407 or email [marchingtonvillagehallbookings@hotmail.com](mailto:marchingtonvillagehallbookings@hotmail.com).

*Geraldine Flavell*

# THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

December is here and the weather is turning colder and wetter. You need to protect outdoor pots and the plants that are in them. Raise pots off the ground with small bricks or “pot feet”. Put pots in a sheltered corner, huddled together as protection from harsh winter weather.

Now is the time to dig over borders and extract roots of perennial weeds such as dandelions. Grass cuttings make a good mulch around the base of plants and can give a degree of protection from the worst winter weather. Stockpile grass cuttings from September onwards for this purpose, then spread them around plants in December and January.

Here are some more things to concentrate on.

## FLOWERING PLANTS

Continue to lift dahlias and gladioli. It is still OK to lift them, even though their leaves may have been blackened by frost. I leave a few dahlias in the ground over the winter months, to see how they cope. In a sheltered site, there is good chance that they will survive.

Pruning plants such as Wisteria, Roses and Acers is perfectly OK at

this time of the year. Prune Acers purely to improve their shape. With Wisteria, cut side shoots back to two or three buds. Regarding Roses, cut back diseased, damaged and dying/dead material. Prune back older, woodier shoots by about two thirds. Leave faded hydrangea flowers on to protect new buds over the Winter.

The mid-winter months are a good time to take hardwood cuttings from many trees and shrubs. Forsythia, Dogwoods [Cornus] and Willows work particularly well.

## FRUIT TREES AND BUSHES

Leave the pruning of plum and cherry trees until the Summer, but continue with pruning of apple and pear trees.

Lift and divide clumps of rhubarb and re-plant them. Remember that you should not harvest in the first growing season.

If you have strawberry plants that are looking old and lack vigour, get rid of them and replace them. Old plants can harbour disease, which may spread to healthier plants.

## VEGETABLES

Harvest parsnips and leeks, especially if you are expecting the ground to be frozen for several days. You can heel

them in the ground in drier soil for several days to maintain freshness until you want to use them.

Clear vegetable beds, dig them over and spread manure or compost on top.

Let the worms earn their keep by working manure in for you.

Brassicas sometimes require support. They may also require netting, as do other winter veg, from raids by pigeons.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.  
NICK ADAMSON.

## Village Nature News

The community orchard has provided much bounty for our villagers. It's been a joy to see locals picking the fruit as windfalls, and off the trees. Many Pies, Puddings and Perry would have been produced with the harvest. Sadly, one of the older trees has fallen over. But with the roots still in the ground, we have decided to leave it for now, to see if it continues to grow skywards.



The mown paths through the more naturally growing grass, have been a success, aiding in the spread of insect friendly flowers, and subsequently seeds for birds during the harsh winter months. The thatch of the un-mown grass provides a perfect environment for voles - the main source of food for owls.

We now have, thanks to Neil Walker, a robust hedgehog box in the orchard, complete with a safe entrance from predators. Thank you.



A hedgehog highway can be achieved in your own garden by creating holes in panelled fencing. This allows the hedgehogs to forage safely from garden to garden, without having to venture onto roads. Any habitat for our ever squeezed wildlife is really beneficial.

Dave Goulson's book, *The Garden Jungle*, is a revelation for budding wildlife enthusiasts.

## **Produce Stall Hall Road.**

Thanks go to Kay Speechley, Pat Gillespie, Bob, Dave, Phil and Catherine (my allotment neighbours) and to any anonymous donors, for contributing so much booty to the stall. And of course our thanks go to all who have supported us by buying our produce.

We have amassed £587



With the funds raised and very generous donations, my husband, Leigh, has made 10 Barn owl nest boxes. (Some sort of pie crust dish awaits him). These have been distributed around the parish by kindly volunteers and we await the exciting news of any residents.

We also have plans to plant more trees. These will be popping up soon.

## **Village Planters**

Thanks to a generous donation by the Parish Council, we will be erecting two new village planters in Bag Lane and Church Lane. Kev Gadsby is very kindly assembling them for us, and thanks go to our bulb sponsors, Sonja Penbury, Anne Husey & Andrea Pate.

Thanks also to Mark Cummings, for his generous contribution of 200 Daffodils. A feverish bulb planting session took place on the square recently. With Chris Gibbs, Helen Kiddle & Leann Holroyd, digging and delving with trowels apiece. The much welcomed season of spring will be a riot of colour.

I am always amazed by the enthusiasm of our locals, and I never cease to be stirred by your passion to live in such a special place

Thank you  
Janey Hilton

## Uttoxeter Cricket Club - Year in Review



2020 has been a year like no other and we are very grateful to have played some cricket. In challenging times, our volunteers have pulled together to ensure a wide range of opportunities for players of all ages. Here we reflect on the year.

### January to March

Indoor training commenced at Thomas Alleyne's High School with a new face in charge of our 1st XI; Ben Brown replaced the departing Gavin Hall. Good numbers attending senior training was a testament to the growth of the club. Our junior cricketers were making some excellent progress and everyone at the club was excited for the year ahead; however, all cricket activity was suspended in late March as the country entered lockdown.

### April to June

There was growing uncertainty as to whether any cricket would be played this year. Our dedicated team of groundsmen maintained our facilities to an excellent standard and we remained hopeful that cricket would resume. Our junior cricketers were fortunate to receive some informative webinars from ECB Level 4 cricket coach Howard Dytham. One of our juniors, James Lee developed a weekly quiz and Archie Forrester was the winner of our t-shirt design competition. Hopes of a return to action were dealt a major blow in June when Boris Johnson claimed that the cricket ball was a natural vector of Covid-19. However, a prompt U-turn saw the game return in July.

## July to September

Remarkably, we managed to play roughly half a season of cricket. A reorganised league format saw our senior cricketers play a condensed league season where our 1st XI and 2nd XI finished 4th in their respective divisions. Our junior teams were able to enjoy a host of fixtures and experience some normality. Sincere thanks go to our committee who worked diligently to ensure that all COVID protocols were met. Having not had cricket for so long, our members were very grateful to play this year!



## October to December

A second national lockdown means that junior county trials will not take place as planned. We have several youngsters who were due to attend trials for Staffordshire and Derbyshire. Also, we are not able to open the club for any social events. We face an uncertain 2021 and hope that everyone is keeping well during these challenging times.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*James Burton*

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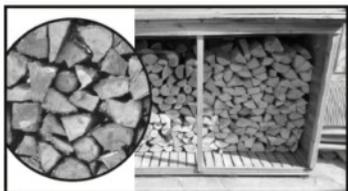
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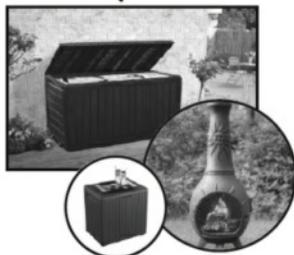


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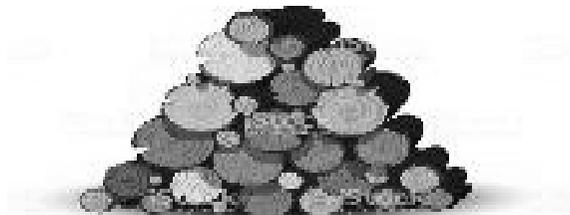
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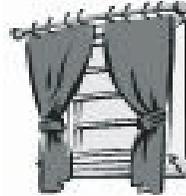
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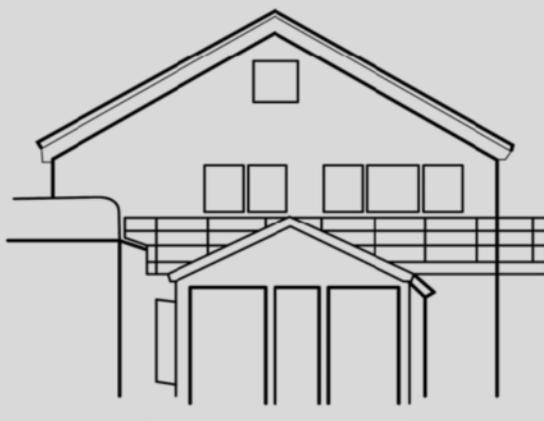
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## Marchington Woodlands Village Hall 2020 Story



*A long, long time ago.....*

Woodlands Village Hall Committee went into the new year (and new decade) with renewed hope and purpose, resolving to do its best to encourage greater use of the facility by the community. Things started well. Gillian and Alan Talbot gave an excellent presentation about their book – Marchington, Marchington Woodlands and Birch Cross: Home Front and Lost Generation 1914-18 – at the February coffee morning. This was followed by a very enjoyable, well-attended supper evening in March. Then, the next week, with Covid-19 spreading quickly, the country was put into national lockdown and the village hall had to close.

It was more than three months before Committee members were able to meet up (in a socially-distanced way) in early July and put together a plan of spending and works to enable the village hall to reopen safely and in better shape. A few of the jobs were quite involved and the Committee did not think that it was right to be setting deadlines for volunteers kindly giving up their own time. As a result of their fantastic efforts, there are now three Marchington Woodlands Village Hall signs on the outside of the building, two new ramps (improving the village hall's accessibility) and a newly insulated, heated and decorated entrance porch. (Can't you just hear that list to 'A partridge in a pear tree'?) At the point when the Committee was about to announce a reopening date, the government introduced tighter lockdown measures to slow the spread of Covid-19 second wave and village halls (other than those providing specific community services) were instructed to close their doors on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sadly, we already know that there isn't going to be a fairy-tale ending to the Woodlands Village Hall 2020 Story. The traditional family Bonfire Night Event had to be cancelled and it is not going to be possible to hold the popular Christmas Coffee Morning/Whist

Evening events or any other ‘normal’ Christmas or New Year celebrations in the village hall this year. Nevertheless, the Committee would love to see some Christmas cheer around the Woodlands to lift community spirits as we move into 2021 and is running a competition for the best festively-decorated window, house or garden, captured in a photo. (See separate notice.) In similar mind, the Parish Council is making exceptional funding available for three sites in the Parish to have Christmas trees – one of these being Woodlands Village Hall.

Welcoming the community back to Woodlands Village Hall will provide the greatest cheer of all.

## ***The End***

*Karen Perrins*

## **Marchington Woodlands Village Hall Update and 2020 AGM**

It was a good job that the Committee could deal with the much-delayed, formal 2020 AGM business (summarised below) ahead of the monthly Committee meeting on 3 November, getting it done just before the latest lockdown restrictions came into force.

The Committee was invited to present its application for Small Grant funding to help with Woodlands Village Hall maintenance costs in 2021/22 at the Parish Council meeting on 10 November. In these difficult financial times, Woodlands Village Hall and other organisations in the parish are fortunate to have this ongoing support.

Woodlands Village Hall Committee is even more determined (you have been warned) for the hall to become an active community centre going forward. Lots of ideas are being suggested and will be given more air when the new, dedicated website is fully up-and-running for the start of next year. Thanks to Mick Marrison for his expertise in setting it up.

If you are of the same mind as the Committee and are planning an event or looking to start a new activity in 2021 and need a venue, then please get in touch with the Village Hall’s new Bookings Secretary, Isabel Wilson, who will be able to talk you through the facilities available and the current hiring details. Isabel’s telephone number is 01889 569411.

### **2020 AGM Business**

The Chairman thanked Committee members for getting the village hall to a position of being able to reopen safely and securely after lockdown.

He also formally thanked Sophie Clark (Victory Lane Awards) for gifting her artistic sign-writing skills and S & L Fabrications for its donation of the framework for the main new ramp outside the French doors.

The Village Hall Accounts prepared to 29 February 2020 were accepted and signed.

Committee member / trustee appointments until the next AGM (due to be held in April 2021):-

Chairman – Brian Greensmith; Treasurer – Pete Smith; Secretary – Judy Slaney; Booking Secretary – Isabel Wilson. General Committee Members – Tim Massey; Jo Mellor-Shaw; Karen Perrins (Vice Chair) and Joyce Salmon. Honorary Committee Member – May Shaw. Parish Council Representative – Cllr Darron Hayes

Mrs Salmon resigned as Booking Secretary and was thanked for all her hard work in the role over a number of years Mrs Shaw stepped down as the Woodlands WI representative on the Committee.

### **Final Comment**

The Committee will be providing lights for the Christmas tree awarded by the Parish Council this year. We hope that it will bring uplifting cheer to everyone passing the village hall.

Please take care and stay well.

With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year,

*Karen Perrins*

## **Useful Contacts**

**GAS** - gas escapes - 0800 111999

**ELECTRICITY** supply emergencies - 0800 6783105 or call 105

**SOUTH STAFFS WATER** supply enquiries - 0800 389 1011

**SEVERN TRENT WATER** - for sewerage problems 0800 7834444

**DOCTORS' SURGERIES** - Dove River Practice (Sudbury) 01283 585215; Northgate Surgery (Uttoxeter) 01889 562010; Balance Street (Uttoxeter) 01889 562145

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# Woodlands Festive Cheer Competition

(It is definitely needed this year)



Do you live in the Woodlands  
and  
always have lovely Christmas window decorations at home?

Or perhaps you like to be a little extravagant and have  
Christmas decorations on the front of your home?

Or do you go to town with festive decorations in your garden?

If you also like to take photographs,  
then our Marchington Woodlands Village Hall Competition is for  
you!

Once you have stepped back and are happy with your decorated  
window, front door, garden, outside Christmas tree...  
please take a photo and send it to  
[mwvh@btinternet.com](mailto:mwvh@btinternet.com)  
by Friday 18 December 2020

There will be a prize, and of course, honour, for the winning  
entry (as judged by the Village Hall Committee – none of whom  
are open to bribery, I'm told!)

Let there be some fun and festive cheer

# November with Woodlands WI

Lockdown again and no November meeting! But what is that appearing at my gate? A Woodlands WI Elf bearing gifts! Yes, although we couldn't meet in person and make our spring/winter planters we could have a pot of cheerfulness and hope delivered safely to our door. The Committee decided that if we couldn't meet then we could at least bring a smile (hopefully) to each member's face by distributing, via the WI elves, a pot of spring bulbs to each member.



And bring a smile they did, as one member commented, *“Thank you so much for the pot of bulbs. We will certainly look forward to seeing and smelling them in the spring.”*

We said a sad farewell and wished good luck to Liz W our Treasurer for many years as she moves to her new adventure and home in Yorkshire. I'm sure it won't be long before she finds a WI and enjoys making new friends.

So, no meeting, what else? Well we decided to hold a Zoom meeting on our meeting night, a new experience for many of us. How lovely it was to see WI friends again from the Woodlands and the village, a chance to catch up with news, find out what people had been doing and their future plans. We've certainly been busy with decorating, road trips to Scotland, wild camping, first time campervan

trip to Pembrokeshire, trips to France and quickly taken holidays. We are donating parcels of toiletries to Uttoxeter Food Bank and have to thank Maggie for being the coordinator of this event and collecting all the parcels.

The time passed too quickly but not before we had decided to do it again in December, this time with a quiz, quiz master Maggie. Perhaps we will all wear a Santa hat to get into the festive spirit, not forgetting the compulsory glass of mulled wine and mince pie!

**All the Members of Woodlands WI wish you all a Joyous and Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

*Grace*

## **St. John's Church Marchington Woodlands**

### **PCC**

**Priest in charge:** Rev. Margaret Sherwin Rector Tel: 01889 560234

**Licensed Reader:** Maggie Hatchard Tel: 01283 820207

#### **Church Wardens:**

Graham Salt, Cherry Tree Cottage, Greaves Lane, Draycott in the Clay  
Tel: 01283 821587; mobile 07759 238388; gsalt799@btinternet.com

Linda Beech, Cliff Bungalow, Marchington Cliff, Uttoxeter ST14 8ND  
tel:01283 820209 / 07875516635 beechnuts@hotmail.co.uk

**Verger:** John Bostock, The School House, Marchington Woodlands  
tel: 01889 562404

**Treasurer:** Mike Cleaver, email macleaver@hotmail.co.uk

#### **PCC members:**

John and Pat Bostock, Graham and Pat Salt, Victor Read, Anna Cadamy,  
Mike Cleaver, Robert Parkes, Linda Beech,

Isabel Wilson: Tel: 01889 569411 chrisalwilson@aol.co.uk

<http://www.marchingtonwoodlandchurch.co.uk/> St. Johns website

## Services at St John's Marchington Woodlands



December 2020 & January 2021

Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	16:00 pm	Evening Prayer
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December *	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	4.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30 am	Holy Communion

\* Pre-booking is essential for this service - see page 7 for how to book.

Please be aware that these dates will be dependant on the level of restrictions we are under. Correct at the time of the magazine submission deadline.

If you would like to do a reading or flowers at any of the services please call Linda or Isabel.

In these uncertain times it is better if you call before attending all services to confirm that the regulations have not changed.

We pray that you all keep safe and well and continue to look out for one another.

We really enjoyed our October services. It was lovely to be back inside our beautiful church.

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>, with the congregation swelled by the friends and family of Nora Hall, Charles Dale led us in a Holy Communion service followed by interment of Nora's ashes into the plot with her husband and son. The weather was very kind being bright and sunny if a little cool.

The PCC then did a rapid clean down as there was a funeral and burial of Eric Stevenson on the following afternoon. The forecast was for heavy rain which unfortunately proved correct just in time for the burial. The service was led by Charles Dale.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> H. Isis Hilton's funeral took place at the Lichfield Crematorium. The funeral cortege came through the Woodlands. We have had to lock down again and cancel our services.

There are many Zoom and Youtube services to help support us in our worship in these difficult times. Let us pray that this latest lock down may have been enough to allow us to celebrate advent and Christmas itself in our churches.

Maggie recorded a lovely remembrance service on Youtube on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. This is the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNlbVgRA6Mc>

Please continue to stay safe and well and to look out for one another.

The diocesan theme for this Christmas is Comfort and Joy let us hope that both will be possible.

[www.marchingtonwoodlandchurch.co.uk](http://www.marchingtonwoodlandchurch.co.uk)

<https://www.uttoxetercofe.org>

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) search Services Uttoxeter

[philip.swan@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:philip.swan@lichfield.anglican.org) Email Philip for links to Monday evening prayer at 5pm and Friday morning prayer at 9am from St Chads Community.

## **Christmas Card Deliveries & Door Wreaths**

It won't be possible to hold the usual Christmas Post Day in Marchington Village Hall this year, but you can still get your local Christmas cards delivered for much less than the price of the stamp. Door wreaths, made by Maggie Hatchard, will also be available. Full details for Christmas card deliveries and Maggie's door wreaths are on page 6.

## **100 club winners in October**

1<sup>st</sup> Phillip Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Heath 3<sup>rd</sup> Roger Mozley 4<sup>th</sup> Felicity Keifer

## SERVICES AT ST PETER'S CHURCH, MARCHINGTON IN DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021

These services will take place if permitted under the Covid restrictions.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Sides-person</i>	<i>Intercessor</i>	<i>Readers</i>	<i>Organist</i>
Sunday 6.12.20	9.30am Communion	Joyce Halcrow	Thelma	Tim Scott & Fiona Needs	Wendy
Sunday 13.12.20	9.30am Celtic Communion	Sheila Jones	Liz	Wendy Scott & Pat Wilson	Rhoda
Sunday 20.12.20	9.30am Communion	Kath Wood	Maggie	Claire Marjoran & Joyce Halcrow	Wendy
Thursday 24.12.20	2.00pm Christmas Eve Service. <b>Pre-booking essential *</b>	Tim Scott	Wendy	Church Wardens	Rhoda
Friday 25.12.20	10.00am <b>Christmas Day Communion</b> Service at St John's Marchington Woodlands. <b>Pre-booking essential *</b>				
Sunday 27.12.20	Join the 10.00am Service at St Mary's Church Uttoxeter. <b>Pre-booking essential *</b>				
Sunday 03.01.21	9.30am Communion	John Landells	Fiona	Rhoda Castle & Pat Wilson	Wendy
Sunday 10.01.21	9.30am Celtic Communion	Valerie Whitehead	Gill	Ian Jones & Thelma Brassington	Rhoda
Sunday 17.01.21	9.30am Communion	Gill Williamson	Thelma	Gill Williamson & Claire Marjoram	Wendy
Sunday 24.01.21	9.30am Morning Worship	Joyce Halcrow	Liz	Gordon Whitehead & Joyce Halcrow	Rhoda
Sunday 31.01.21	Joint Service with St John's Church, Marchington Woodlands				

\* See page 7 for how to book.