DECEMBER 2021

Price 50p

trio

St. Lawrence, Stanton Prior



St. Peter, Marksbury

All Saints, Farmborough

YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHURCH BY REGULAR GIVING

Each of our churches has a planned Giving Scheme using weekly envelopes, periodic cheques or Bankers Orders. If you pay income tax, please ask for details of GIFT AID making it easy to you to give and for your PCC to recover the tax paid on your donation at no extra cost to yourself. Charities Aid Foundation cheques also accepted.

Details from:	Judith Haywood	Marksbury	470317
	David Robertson	Stanton Prior	472414
	Jan Jones	Farmborough	750840

OUR SUPPORT OF CHURCH SOCIETIES

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
Mr. & Mrs. S Ladd Farmborough 471666

CMS - RWANDA
Supported by Farmborough Church

UNITED SOCIETY PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL
Supported by Marksbury Church: Contact Mrs. J Roberts 470455

CHILDREN'S GOODWILL VILLAGE, INDIA
Supported by Stanton Prior Church

FARMBOROUGH MEMORIAL HALL Modern, well equipped hall available for regular bookings, functions and parties, WiFi available. Main hall seats 100. Stage, kitchen, bar area. Meeting room. Parking. Good access for disabled. Contact: Phil Gray 07474 383 090 or email: farmboroughMhall@gmail.com

MARKSBURY VILLAGE HALL
Attractive & well equipped. Capacity of 100. FOR ALL OCCASIONS. Reasonable prices. Apply Charlie Webb 07792 670 541 or email: marksburyvillagehall@gmail.com

STANTON PRIOR VILLAGE HALL Comfortable vintage Village Hall alongside a walled garden. Lovely views. Seats up to 60. High-speed wifi. Apply to Jane Wyatt susanjanewyatt@gmail.com or 01761 471346

FARMBOROUGH GOOD NEIGHBOURS
Offer residents help with transport. Contributions welcome. Please give 48 hours' notice and DO NOT leave a message on an answerphone in case the person you call is away. Contact:
MICHAEL CREESE 750826 or MAL & DONNY ALLEN 470277

THE BENEFICE OF FARMBOROUGH, MARKSBURY & STANTON PRIOR

RECTOR INTERREGNUM
PLEASE CONTACT
CHURCH WARDENS

CHURCH LEADERS & OFFICERS

FARMBOROUGH

Churchwarden	Tom Cook	569742
Churchwarden	Catherine Taylor	472137
PCC Treasurer	Jan Jones	750840
PCC secretary	Lisa Hegan	01749 831672
Synod Representatives	Pat Beaumont	479187
	Chris Lovell	470425
Choir Leader	Chris Lovell	470425
ARK	Liz Ladd	471666
Tower Captain	Patrick Bridges	471074
Transport Liaison	Catherine Taylor	472137

All Saints Officer Email contacts:
Warden@allsaintsfarmborough.co.uk
PCC Secretary - lisa@hrdbristol.co.uk
Treasurer@allsaintsfarmborough.co.uk

MARKSBURY

Churchwarden	Tony Caisley	472708
Churchwarden	John Muggleton	(01225) 872183
PCC Secretary	Judith Haywood	470317
PCC Treasurer	Gill Hurley	472747
Tower Captain	Robert Perry	
Synod Representative	Tim Roberts	470455

STANTON PRIOR

Churchwarden	Frances Zagni	479351
Churchwarden	Richard Kitchener	470012
PCC Secretary	Valerie Hardwick	479758
PCC Treasurer	David Robertson	472414
Synod Representative	Jane Davies	471346

Services for DECEMBER 2021.

NOTE CHANGES TO TIMES & PATTERN OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD

ANY QUERIES PLEASE CHECK CHURCH NOTICEBOARDS
or CONTACT A CHURCH WARDEN [see page 3]

	05/12/21	12/12/21	19/12/21	23/12/21 & 24/12/21	25/12/21 Christmas Day	26/12/21
Farmborough 11am Note 12th, 19th Services 6.30pm & 24th 3.00pm	Holy Communion Revd. Dr Victor Barley	Family & Friends Communion ?6.30pm Evensong tbc	Holy Communion Revd. Trevor Stubbs 6.30pm Carol Service	24th 3.00pm Jumper Service	Holy Communion Revd. Tony Wilds	BENEFICE Morning Worship
Intercessor Farmborough	Jan Jones	Liz Ladd	Chris Lovell			Charlotte & Ed Strange
Reader Farmborough	Malachi 3. 1-4/ Philippians 1.3-11 *Chris Lovell* Luke 3.1-6 *Catherine Taylor*	Luke 3. 7-18 *Charlie & Nicky Stone* **tbcEvensong** Isaiah 35 *Barbara Chard* Luke 1. 57-66 *Dave Willis*	Micah 5. 2-5a/ Hebrews 10. 5-10 *Tom Cook* Luke 1. 39-45 *Charlotte Strange*	readers tba	Isaiah 52. 7-10/ Hebrews 1. 1-4 *Liz Ladd* John 1.1-14 **celebrant**	readers tba
Flower rota Farmborough	Advent no flowers			Those responsible for flowers have been notified but anyone else wishing to help decorate for Christmas please come on the morning of the **18th.**		
Marksbury 9.30am Note 12th 11.00am	No service	11am Christingle			9.30am Holy Communion Revd. Tony Wilds	BENEFICE Morning Worship at Farmborough
Flower rota Marksbury	Advent no flowers The **tree,** kindly donated by the Collins family, thank you very much Sally and Peter, will be decorated on the **11th at 2.30pm**, in time for the Christingle the next day			All help to decorate for Christmas on the **24th at 10am**, or bring your flowers to church at a convenient time, please		
Stanton Prior 9.30am Note 19th 11am, 23rd 6pm & 25th 10.30am	Family & Friends	No service	11am Holy Communion Revd. Anne Marie Bird	23rd 6pm Carol Service	10.30am Family & Friends	BENEFICE Morning Worship at Farmborough

Farmborough 'Tuesday Teas' is back each week between **2.30pm & 4pm**, all welcome for a chat over a cuppa in Church.



MARKSBURY COFFEE MORNING



The first coffee morning for a long time is planned for the **11th December at 10.30**, with coffee, the cake stall, crafts and a raffle.

We look forward to seeing everyone again.

Church opening times for Private Prayer.

Farmborough, Marksbury & Stanton Prior are open for prayer, each day from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

A **weekly sheet with prayers and Bible readings continues to be available by e-mail** and could be used as a basis for worship, if you would like to be included on the distribution list for the virtual service contact your PCC Secretary [details page 3]
If you do not have internet access one can be printed off for you.

You can join the Church of England Christmas Services online, link https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/advent-and-christmas-2021-resources-heart-christmas

These services reflect their 'At the heart of Christmas' campaign, which is an invitation to everyone to discover – or rediscover – the good news of God's saving love as revealed in the birth of Jesus. Starting on Christmas Eve and continuing daily (Monday to Saturday) until Epiphany on 6 January, you will be able to hear 12 stories and meditations from the archbishops and guests as they explore themes close to the heart of Christmas.

FLAG DAYS FOR DECEMBER 2021

25th - January 6th	Christmas Day until the Epiphany

CHURCH NEWS...

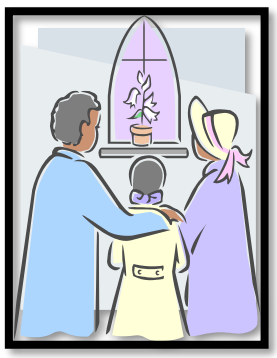
An important date for your diary…

January 17th in the Evening the Licensing Service for our new Rector, Guy Martin-Scott, will be held at Farmborough Church followed by a chance to meet him afterwards at Farmborough school, further details next month.

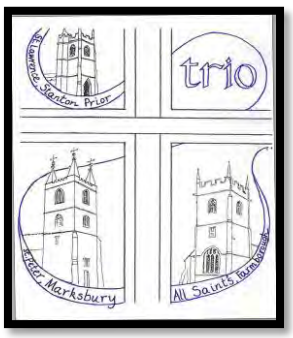
During the interregnum



ENQUIRIES about baptism, confirmation and weddings should be made by contacting one of the Churchwardens in the relevant Parish.



AND SAY HELLO



If you have new neighbours, please let a Churchwarden know so they can receive a copy of Trio & a 'hello' from the Church family.

This month more bloopers, announcements and some 'smile lines!'

CAMELS

In Jane's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a large star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it.

"Why is the third man going in a different direction?" her mother asked.

Jane replied: "Oh, he's looking for a place to park."

Welcome to the December edition of Trio.

As the festive season approaches, we like to hark back to “a traditional Christmas”, but how traditional is it? Certainly, mulled wine dates back to Roman times. Mince pies started life as medieval recipes for preserving minced meat with dried fruit and a preserving liquid. Again, Christmas pudding evolved from “frumenty” (beef or mutton with dried fruit, spices and wine); the modern version dates to the 1590’s.

St. Nicholas was a monk born in 280 AD near Myra in present-day Turkey. He is said to have rescued three impoverished girls from prostitution by dropping sacks of gold coins through their windows. There is a later, more lurid, tradition that he resurrected three children who had been chopped up and pickled in brine by a butcher who saw a marketing opportunity to sell them as pickled pork.



The Dutch name for St Nicholas, Sint Nikolaas, became abbreviated to Sinter Klaas; we owe our images of “Santa Claus” to woodcuts designed for the New York Historical Society by John Pintard in 1804.

In Austria, in addition to St Nicholas rewarding well-behaved children, his evil accomplice Krampus captures naughty ones and whisks them away in his sack. In Norway, it is advisable to hide brooms on Christmas Eve, otherwise witches and evil spirits will use them to ride on.

Special chants to celebrate Christ’s birth first arose in the 4th-5th century AD. In the 12th century, St Francis of Assisi incorporated festive seasonal chants in Christmas services. Although several of our carols date back to medieval times, many were written in the 19th century, often encouraged by Queen Victoria. The words of “Away in a Manger” were written by an anonymous American to the tune of “Home sweet home” (try it – it sort of works). John Henry Hopkins, rector of Christ’s Church, Pennsylvania, published the words and music of “We three kings” in 1865, and the words of “O little town of Bethlehem” were penned by Phillips Brooks, bishop of Massachusetts, an early proponent of racial equality. The tune, collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1903, was originally a song about “a ploughboy stout and strong”.

We owe the popularity of “We wish you a merry Christmas” to Arthur Warrell, born in School House, Farmborough, whose setting was performed at Bristol University in 1935. It is likely he heard the original sung in local hostelries. The New Oxford Book of Carols rather sniffily describes it as “the remnant of an envoie much used by wassailers and other luck visitors, still in all too common use by modern doorstep carollers”. Have a blessed, peaceful and joyful Christmas. Chris

A message from the Rt. Revd.
Ruth Worsley
Bishop of Taunton



The heart of Christmas



What is at the heart of Christmas for you?
Is it the feasting and festivities?
The carols and the candles?
The stockings and the gifts?
Or the presence of those you love?

This Christmas we may find ourselves investing more in our preparations, as last year Christmas plans were curtailed and for some even cancelled. A year ago we were to have had all our family gather for Christmas at our house and then just before, my husband Howard had a positive Covid test. Everything changed and in fact neither of us felt well enough to enjoy a special meal together let alone welcome others. So, this year I want to pull out all the stops!

The children and grandchildren will be with us and Howard tells me that Father Christmas will be paying a special visit! However, we are also wanting to make sure that we don't get carried away with all the tinsel and trappings and forget the heart of the story. So, we shall limit our spending on pressies but make sure that we really value the presence of one another and particularly of the Christ child at the heart of it all.

This year as you anticipate Christmas, through the stories told through Advent windows, or carol services in your church, or Nativities on the move, how might you prepare your heart for the coming Christ child? The wonder of Christmas is that God has never given up on us and in fact loves us so much that he wants to spend time with us. The birth of Jesus, God's Son, into a humble human family, brought God into our very midst, into the heart of our homes. This Christmas let's make space for Him once more and listen to the words of love, hope and joy He wants to share with us. And may that inspire our faith in the future, for ourselves and our world.

Wishing you much joy and peace this Christmas!

Bishop Ruth

A Christmas Pudding

a feast of festive choral music, old and new!



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, FARMBOROUGH

Saturday 4th December at 7pm

THREE TOWERS FESTIVAL

BUSKAID

Join the **Swan Singers** of Wells for a concert of Christmas music, sacred and secular

Admission £10 in aid of church funds, to include festive refreshments

Tickets available from Chris chrislovell805@gmail.com or on the door

Swan Singers

MARKSBURY

CHRISTINGLE and CAROLS ON THE GREEN



The return of the Melody Makers!
Once again, we look forward to welcoming the band twice in December;
on the **12th** there's the **CHRISTINGLE** service at **11am** with the band accompanying the carols,

and on the **22nd CAROLS ON THE GREEN** will start at **7pm** with carol singing, brass band and refreshments.

Thanks in advance to the Priest family for their hospitality and to Gary Welsh and Amanda Bayley for planning and arranging the music.



ANGEL TIDINGS

The little boy was to be an angel in the Christmas play and his one line was: "Behold, I bring you good tidings." He asked what tidings were and his mother explained that the word meant news.

On the night of the play, the youngster had stage fright and, after a long silence, blurted out: "Hey, have I got news for you!"





"Christmas Cracker "
Saturday 18th December 3.00 – 4.30pm

We are hoping this will "crack" open a series of activity sessions for our children and families. Anyone can come as there will be something for all ages.

There will be things to make, do, some surprises and the afternoon will end with worship and a Christmas treat!.

More information from Jan (750840), Judith (470317) or Liz (471666)



NEW BANK

Mother decided that ten-year old Cathy should get something 'practical' for Christmas.
"Suppose we open a savings account for you?" she suggested.
Cathy was delighted. "It's your account, darling," mother said as they arrived at the bank, "so you fill out the application."
Cathy was doing fine until she came to the space for 'Name of your former bank.'
After a slight hesitation, she put down 'Piggy'.

Farmborough & Marksbury Schools

Take a look at their websites to find out more about life at our schools.
https://www.farmboroughchurchprimary.org.uk/
https://www.marksburyschool.org.uk/



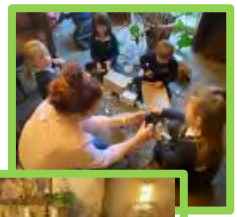
The Christian Value focus this term is GENEROSITY

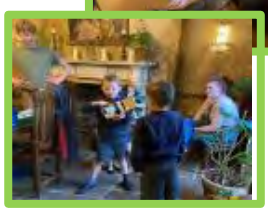


Both schools held **remembrance services** on Thursday on 11th.
Marksbury held their service across the whole school before standing outside for their two minute silence. The children asked lots of questions and gave very knowledgeable answers about why we hold remembrance services and why people have wars. They also discussed how wars affect people and animals. Some children bought in poppies they had made at home and some made poppies in school. Well done to River class who were very creative sewing their poppies!

Engineering Challenge Afternoon:







Marksbury had a great week for engineering entrepreneurs as Stream class visited The Pig for their challenge afternoon. They were asked by the staff at The Pig to design and build a device that the gardeners could use to collect the vegetables from the garden when it was raining, to save them from getting wet.
The children built conveyor belts, eco-friendly designs using wind power, steam powered robots and a device which also planted the seeds as well as collecting the vegetables. The staff were amazed at the designs and the ideas from the children. Definitely some future entrepreneurs in the making!



At Marksbury **new IPads** have arrived in school, **thanks to the fundraising efforts of the PTA.** The children will soon be using them in class to support their learning. The children and staff would like to say a huge **THANKYOU** to everyone who organised and supported the fundraising efforts.

While at Farmborough there was a … WILD SCIENCE VISIT!

Hedgehogs, Robins and Otters enjoyed a visit by Amber from Wild Science - along with her menagerie of wonderful animals!
The children had the opportunity to hold a variety of animals belonging to different groups while learning lots of facts about them.

These are some comments made by the children about their experience:







It was great! There were so many animals and I held all of them. Casey

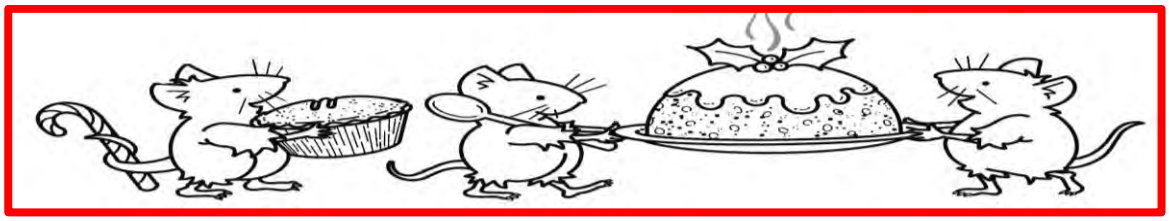
I was very excited. I saw a leopard lizard and I learned that lizards shed their skin like snakes. Harry W

We learned about the types of animals. They are in different groups. I held them all. Ella

It was funny when the frog jumped onto Sophia! Robyn

Last, but definitely not least, was a big tarantula. It climbed up my arm. It tickled a bit! William G

A very big thank you to the School Association for part-funding this opportunity.



with Christmas in mind.... some light hearted observations

Drive carefully this Christmas. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker. Anon

There are some people who want to throw their arms round you simply because it's Christmas;
there are other people who you simply want to strangle because it's Christmas. Robert Lynd

FARMBOROUGH CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING and HANDBELL RINGING



We hope to continue the great tradition of carol singing and handbell ringing around the village. All are welcome to join in; last year several people of all ages, and a few dogs, joined us for all or part of the time.

Full details will appear later on a lamppost near you, but please make a note of the following probable dates, starting at 7.00pm; Thursday 16th., Friday 17th. and Tuesday 21st. December.



All collections go to our favoured charities, the Children's Society and NSPCC.
This year we hope to reintroduce handbell ringing (accompanied by our mascot, Oswald), and if you would like to have a try at this, or refresh your skills, there will be a short practice and a cuppa at Green Farm Cottage on Sunday afternoon 12th. December at 4pm.

For further info please contact me on 470425.

Chris Lovell

CHRISTMAS FINANCES?

EASY COME, EASY GO

Father Christmas enters through a hole in the chimney and leaves through a hole in your pocket.

PAY FOR IT

Have you noticed? By the time you have paid off your holiday, it is time to think about Christmas presents.

CHRISTMAS CAKES 2021

Made to order-
All cakes fully iced and decorated
3" £6
6" £13
8" £21



Please send orders by December 5th at the latest
to Gill Hurley 07779315519,
leaving your name and contact number,
in aid of Marksbury Church.

SNOWMEN

Two snowmen were standing next to each other.
One said to the other: "Can you smell carrots?"

All Saints says a big "Thank You!"

Combining a coffee morning with our Annual Gift Day on 30th October provided a pleasant time for people to bring their donations, chat over coffee and purchase the goodies on sale.

The actual coffee morning raised £175 and the Gift Day envelopes handed in, with Gift Aid claimed where possible, will realise £1960.A great to boost to church finances.

Envelopes can still be handed in or contact Jan Jones for details of other ways to donate. 01761 750840
jeannette.georgina@gmail.com.

Grateful thanks to everyone who gave in any way. JGJ

NEWS FROM CMS - RWANDA

Supported by Farmborough Church



When taking on a new role, many of us look for job security – yet when mission partners Catriona and Steve Bennett (an anaesthetist and surgeon respectively) moved to Rwanda, they hoped to be out of a job a few years later. Here Steve shares their journey.

We looked forward to seeing what we could accomplish in five years as mission partners at Gahini Hospital in Rwanda.
We anticipated that I would work caring for patients who might need surgery, while Catriona would work alongside the hospital's non-medical anaesthetists developing their skills as well as delivering some more complicated anaesthetics. In addition, we hoped that we might improve the hospital's surgical facilities, as the equipment there was not particularly appropriate or reliable.
Both of us have a passion for teaching and training, and we expected this might be a legacy for us among the Rwandan nonmedical anaesthetists and doctors training to become surgeons.

Inauspicious beginnings

In the first few months after we arrived in Gahini, we found the reality was rather different from what we had expected. There was practically no functioning anaesthetic equipment, so we were limited in the operating we could provide. The hospital functioned like a government (district) hospital. Rwandan district hospitals were not supposed to have specialists, so even when we got anaesthetic equipment, we struggled to get the anaesthetic drugs we needed because the district pharmacy didn't have them.
There was another hospital in the province that the government were already developing into a referral and teaching hospital so we resigned ourselves to the thought that God knew why he had sent us here, and if we managed to merely serve the local patients by providing surgical care, we would at least be showing his love to the poorest in the rural community.
The situation didn't really change during our first 30 months at Gahini. However, rather unexpectedly a number of welcome developments occurred at about the same time.

Surprising developments

The university needed placements for recently graduated medical students, and we received several new doctors to work in surgery under my supervision. To my surprise I then became an associate dean of the University of Rwanda.
Influenced by Catriona's presence as a specialist anaesthesiologist, a German charity built a fully equipped orthopaedic theatre suite for a visiting orthopaedic surgeon to provide surgery for children with disabilities.
Shortly after, the government sent an orthopaedic surgeon to our provincial referral hospital, but he found there neither equipment nor facilities. As Gahini had the facilities needed, our hospital was able to acquire two orthopaedic surgeons and became the orthopaedic referral hospital for the whole province.
We received some very generous grants and donations, which allowed us to refurbish the surgical and orthopaedic wards and equip a highdependency patient area to look after some of our sicker patients more safely.

God's miracles through our weakness

In the last six months, the hospital has been recognised enough for its work to be sent intern doctors, so there are now eight new doctors working throughout the hospital.
Catriona's anaesthetic work has resulted in her receiving a number of non-physician anaesthetic students for their clinical placements, and she has been invited to be the university's external examiner for their exams. And at the beginning of this year, the government sent Gahini an anaesthesiologist. We hope that they will also send a Rwandan general surgeon to replace Steve by the time we leave.

We would suggest that even more important is to bring God what you have to offer, and let him work miracles through your weaknesses.
Despite the inauspicious beginnings of our time in Rwanda, we have seen Gahini develop its facilities and improve its Rwandan staffing to the stage where we have indeed almost worked ourselves out of a job.



Hallelujah!

Since receiving this report the Bennetts we learn that they are now back home in Scotland. All Saints awaits to hear whom we will be linked with in the future, and we have sent our good wishes to the Bennett family. *JGJ*

Something to remember in December

13th: St Lucy's Day



Saint Lucy of Syracuse is celebrated most widely in both Italy and Scandinavian countries. She was an early 4th century virgin martyr, who, according to legend, brought food and aid to Christians hiding in the Rome catacombs. She wore a candlelit wreath on her head to light her way, leaving her hands free to carry as much food as possible. Her feast day, which coincided with the shortest day of the year prior to calendar reforms, is widely celebrated as a festival of light. In Scandinavia, girls dressed as St Lucy carry spicy biscuits and saffron buns in procession. One girl wears candles on a wreath on her head, the others are dressed in white robes and carry candles. Boys aren't left out – they are the 'star boys' and wear cone shaped hats decorated with stars. A song is sung to the Neapolitan tune 'Santa Lucia', but with special words describing light overcoming darkness. There are variations of the celebration in other European countries; maybe Scandinavia, with its long, dark winters, finds St Lucy's day particularly significant!



Lucia buns, made with saffron

In the Marksbury Prayer Diary for December:
As well as praying for the whole village,
we focus on Priston Lane, Mollifriend Lane
and West Tyning.



Remember...

North East Somerset & Bath Methodist Circuit
Area Minister: Revd. David Winstanley Tel: 01761 439 934
40 North Meadows, Peasedown St.John, Bath BA2 8PS
Information if required at present can be obtained from
Revd.David Winstanley via e-mail:- dwin64@hotmail.com

Activities in the Benefice..



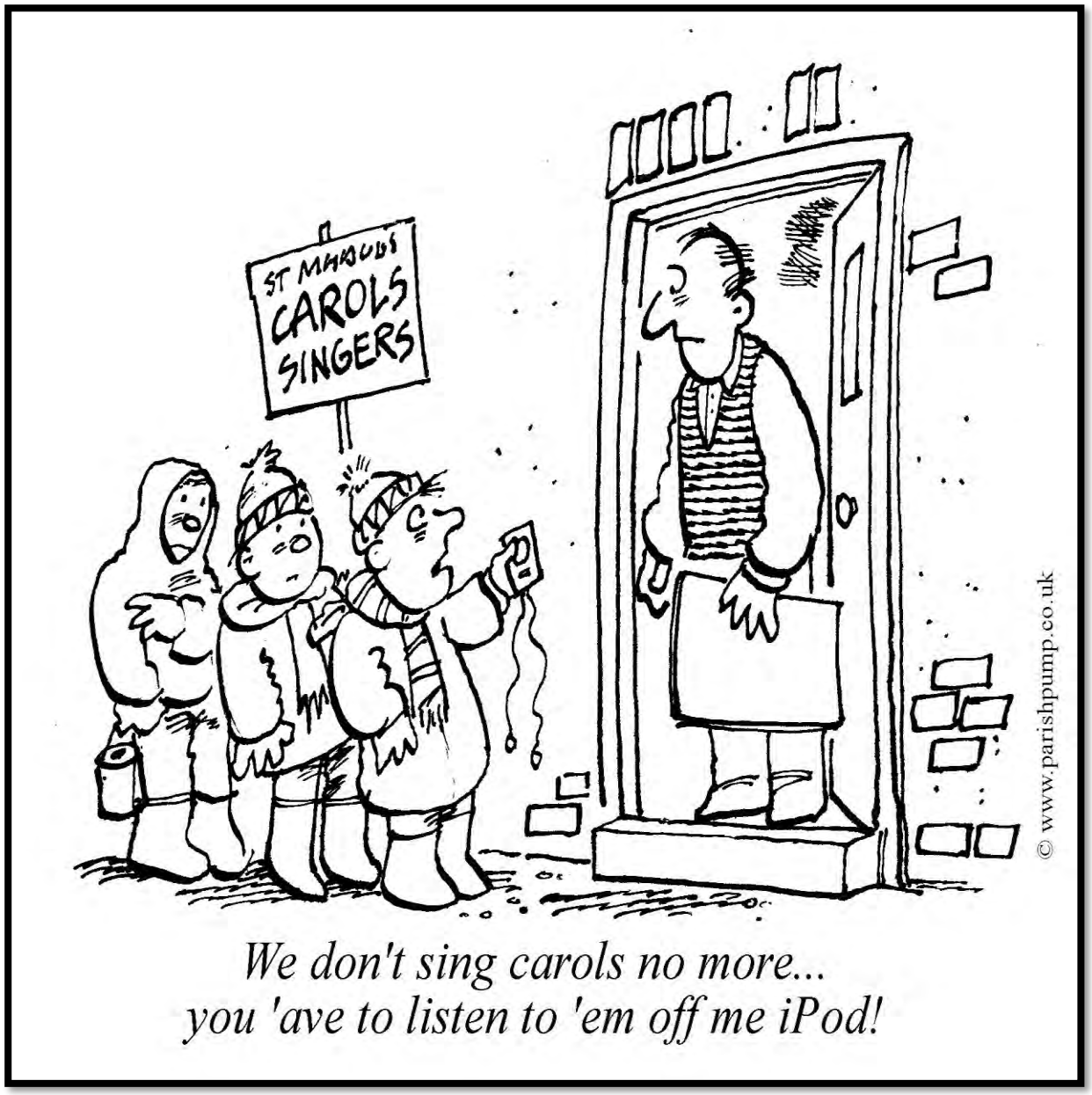
At Marksbury Hall besides 'fitness/sport related' or children/youth activities there is……..

Crafties 1st Wednesday each month 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Dec 1st, Jan 5th Feb. 2nd & March 2nd.
Choir Jam each Tuesday 7.00pm – 9.30pm
Dec 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th, Jan 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th.

While at Farmborough Memorial Hall besides 'fitness/sport related' or children/youth activities there is……..
Cameo 1st Tuesday each month 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Dec 7th, Jan 4th, Feb 1st & March 1st.
Floral Art 2nd Monday of the month 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Dec 6thnote change of date, Jan 10th, Feb 14th & Mar 14th.
Goodwill Club 2nd & 4th Thursday each month 2.30pm – 4.00pm
Dec 3rd lunchtime, Jan 13th, 27th, Feb 10th & 24th.
WERN support & social group
3rd Thursday each month, 10.15 to 12 noon
Dec. 16th, Jan 20th, Feb 17th & March 17th.
Whist every Wednesday 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Dec 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, Jan 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th.

Share&Repair Café 2nd Saturday each month 10am – 1pm
Dec 11th, Jan 8th, Feb 12th & March 12th.

For contact details & information about all activities in our halls look at the village hall websites
http://www.farmboroughmemorialhall.org.uk/
https://marksburyvillage.wixsite.com/hall



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

One night Freda went carol singing. She knocked on the door of a house and began to sing. A man with a violin in his hand came to the door. Within half a minute, tears were streaming down his face. Touched, Freda sang every carol she knew - and some she didn't. The man continued to weep gently throughout her performance. "I understand," she said softly at last. "You are remembering your happy childhood Christmas days."
"No, not exactly," he replied in a choked sort of voice. "I'm a musician!"

manna

BATH AND WELLS..

The Manna magazine has now changed to a monthly mailing format allowing Parish Magazine Editors to include items from the Diocese.

News in brief



New pupil chaplains for Wellington

St John's CofE Primary School is celebrating having seven new pupil chaplains.

The pupil chaplains, who volunteered for the role and had special training, will be supported by their school chaplain. They hope to plan and prepare Collective Worship and community events, help on the playground and take part in assemblies.

A special carol service

St Mary's, Timsbury is holding a carol service for special needs children and their families on 12 December. Revd Julian Davies, himself a father of a son with autism and severe learning difficulties, says, "Families with special needs children can feel very isolated. As a family we wouldn't have gone to the pantomime were it not for their special performances. I know it can be difficult taking a child with special needs to such a service as other families often don't understand the behaviour of the child with special needs. I am hoping to give them a space where they feel welcome and comfortable among people in a similar situation."

Join us this Christmas

We hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences that help Christmas come alive return to our homes, our churches and communities, but whatever December brings there are number of ways you can embrace the spirit of Christmas. Services and nativities are being planned in churches, online and the Christmas story is being brought to life in a host of creative ways.

You can join us online https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ in Advent as we take a global perspective to journey through the account of Jesus' birth. Developed with children and young people in mind by our youth advisers, along with the Send a Cow charity and Movement, the youth and young adult ministry, our Advent actvities have something to offer all ages. There are five short videos (one for each week of Advent plus one for Christmas Day featuring Bishop Ruth) and daily challenges on social media; all based around the themes of hope, joy, peace and love.



HYMNS FOR THE ROAD

If you MUST speed on the road during this Christmas Season, at least sing these hymns loudly as you go:

at 45 mph ……'God Will Take Care of Me'
at 55 mph …… 'Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah'
at 65 mph …… 'Nearer My God to Thee'
at 75 mph …… 'Nearer Still Nearer'
at 85 mph …… 'This World in Not My Home'
at 95 mph …… Lord, I'm Coming Home'
at 100 mph …… 'Precious Memories'



Interview

What Christmas is all about?

Emily Hatton, who features in our Advent campaign, prepares for her first Christmas as a Youth Minister

How did you get involved in the campaign?
Having worked with Movement, the Go Team and Send a Cow over the years so it was great to get involved with the joint Advent Around the World project. Those who read the scriptures do so with such joy, that it's almost like hearing them for the first time. It really gets you thinking about what Christmas is all about.

What does Christmas mean to you?
For me, Christmas is (obviously) all about Jesus. But it's so hard not to get caught up in the commercialisation of Christmas that's happened in our developed countries, isn't it? But for me, Christmas is about remembering that God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son – God incarnate. So for me, Christmas is really exciting!

How will you celebrate with young people in your church?
I'm looking forward to getting stuck in with all that will be happening: Christingle, carol services, a community Christmas tree festival, and school events. We hope to have a number of the youth group getting baptised in the weeks leading up to Christmas. What an amazing time to see teenagers commit their lives to living wholeheartedly for Jesus!

How are they feeling about this year's Christmas celebrations?
After last year, I think the young people are just looking forward to taking up their Christmas traditions again, seeing their family and friends - and not just on one day! Christmas carols were really missed last year, so being able to sing again is really exciting.

PUZZLE SECTION!

Have a go!!

2		1		8		7		
8	4	7	2			6		
				7	5	2		
7	3			2	6	4	5	
			5		8			
	6	4	1	3			2	9
		6	7	5				
		2			1	5	3	6
		5		6		1		2

Easy Sudoku

			8	2				
						3		7
	4				3	8	5	
		6	3	5		7		2
5				1				3
1		3		7	9	5		
	2	9	5				6	
6		5						
				9	2			

Medium Sudoku

STAR

At a rehearsal for a Sunday school Christmas play, the teacher carefully lined up four little 'cherubs'.
Each carried a huge cut-out letter. As they stood side by side, the letters would spell out "STAR".
A slight mix-up occurred, and those present in the church auditorium nearly fell out of their pews as the four little performers took their places – in reverse.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

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Items for the next edition of TRIO, via e-mail please, to Sally Davis on: beneficechurchtrio@gmail.com
Deadline for copy is Sunday 12th December 2021

PUZZLE ANSWERS

2	5	1	6	8	9	7	4	3
8	4	7	2	1	3	6	9	5
6	9	3	4	7	5	2	1	8
7	3	8	9	2	6	4	5	1
1	2	9	5	4	8	3	6	7
5	6	4	1	3	7	8	2	9
3	1	6	7	5	2	9	8	4
4	7	2	8	9	1	5	3	6
9	8	5	3	6	4	1	7	2

Easy Sudoku

3	5	1	8	2	7	6	9	4
9	6	8	1	4	5	3	2	7
2	4	7	9	6	3	8	5	1
4	9	6	3	5	8	7	1	2
5	7	2	4	1	6	9	8	3
1	8	3	2	7	9	5	4	6
7	2	9	5	3	1	4	6	8
6	1	5	7	8	4	2	3	9
8	3	4	6	9	2	1	7	5

Medium Sudoku

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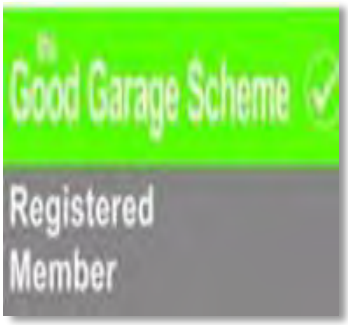
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