DECEMBER 2022

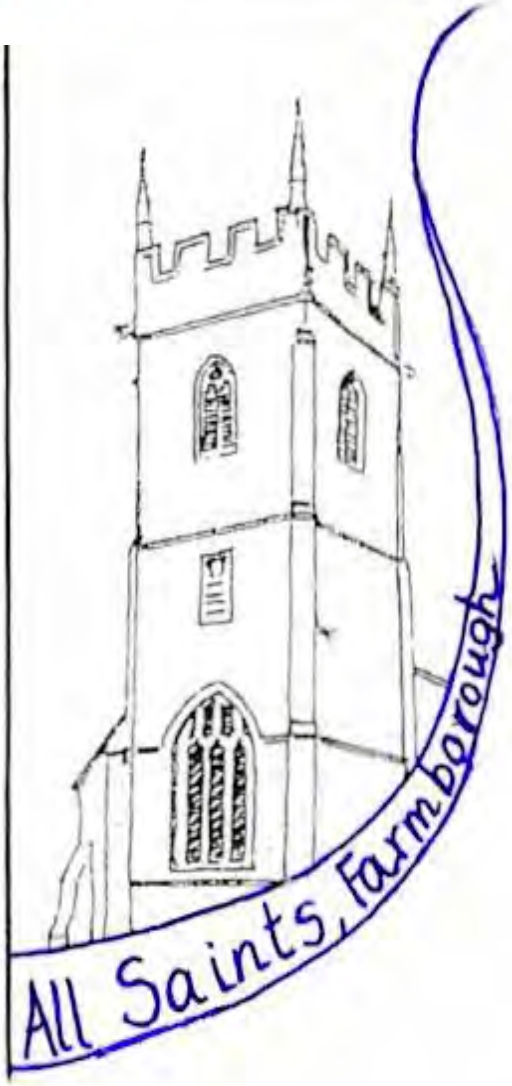
Price 50p

trio









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 Jan Jones 750840

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 07473 383 090 or
email: farmboroughMhall@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 Revd. Guy Martin-Scott
The Rectory, Church Lane,
Farmborough. BA2 0AN
Email revdguy@gmail.com
01761 754597

CHURCH LEADERS & OFFICERS

FARMBOROUGH

Churchwarden	Tom Cook	569742
Churchwarden	Catherine Taylor	472137
PCC Treasurer	Jan Jones	750840
PCC secretary	Charlotte Strange	07951 483 574
Synod Representatives	Pat Beaumont	479187
	Chris Lovell	470425
Choir Leader	Chris Lovell	470425
Tower Captain	Patrick Bridges	471074

MARKSBURY

Churchwarden	Tony Caisley	472708
Churchwarden	John Muggleton	(01225) 872183
PCC Secretary	Judith Haywood	470317
PCC Treasurer	Gill Hurley	472747
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 2022.

Come and join us at one of our services this month.

Holy Communion: A communion service with all-age features.
Family & Friends: An all-age service full of fun activities.
Morning Praise: A service celebrating your favourite hymns.
BCP Evensong & Matins: Traditional services from the Book of Common Prayer.

Date	Farmborough	Marksbury	Stanton Prior
4 December Advent 2	11.00 Holy Communion*		09.30 Morning Praise
11 December Advent 3	11.00 Christingle*	09.30 Holy Communion	
	18.30 Evensong	16.00 Christingle	
16 December Friday	Carols Around the Village Pt 1		
17 December Saturday	18.30 9 Lessons and Carols		
18 December Advent 4	11.00 Matins*		09.30 Holy Communion
19 December Monday	Carols Around the Village Pt 2		
21 December Wednesday	15.00 Christmas Workshop	19.00 Carols on the Green	
23 December Friday			19.00 Carol Service
24 December Christmas Eve	15.00 Christmas Jumper Service		23.30 Midnight Communion
25 December Christmas Day	11.00* Family & Friends with Holy Communion In the vestry	10.00 Family & Friends	
1 January 23 New Year's Day	11.00 Benefice service		

* coffee is available from 10.30am for 11am service.

Intercessions

Farmborough

4th Dec.: Lisa Hegan.
11th Dec.: Liz Ladd.
18th Dec.: Chris Lovell.
25th Dec.: Tom Cook.

Readers

Farmborough

Chris Lovell, Catherine Taylor.
am Becky Martin-Scott, Liz Ladd.
Evensong Barbara Chard, Jan Jones.
Tom Cook, Ann Swabey
tba.

All Churches are open each day for Private Prayer

Welcome to December's edition of Trio..

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE BENEFICE.

....FARMBOROUGH

CAROL SINGING and HANDBELL RINGING

We have a long tradition of singing and ringing Christmas carols around Farmborough. This year we plan to sing and ring carols on Friday 16th and Monday 19th December from 7pm, this year starting at All Saints Church, where will return for mulled wine and mince pies.

All are very welcome to join us.

As usual, we are raising funds for two Children's charities, the NSPCC and Children's Society.

If you would like to have a go at ringing handbells, we can organize a training session. Please contact me on 470425 or chrislovell805@gmail.com for more information. Chris Lovell.





ALL SAINTS CHURCH, FARMBOROUGH

CHRISTMAS!

Services all start in the church

11 December	11am	Christingle
16 December	7pm	Carols Around the Village
17 December	6.30pm	Carol Service
19 December	7pm	Carols Around the Village
21 December	3pm	Christmas Celebration
24 December	3pm	Christmas Jumper Service
25 December	11am	Family & Friends Service

See the Trio or church website for more information

ALL SAINTS FARMBOROUGH

CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATION

3PM, 21ST DECEMBER

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WITH GAMES, CRAFT AND FOOD IN THE CHURCH





Thank you to Judy Roberts & Jean Lloyd who arranged the flowers in our churches for services until Advent, the churches will be decorated for Christmas.
At **Marksbury** anyone is welcome to come & help decorate the church on **Christmas Eve, after 10am** or you may wish to prepare your flowers at home, and bring them along on the 24th. Thank you in advance!

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

LORD'S PRAYER, UPDATED

I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer. Then she implored: "and lead us not into temptation but deliver us some e-mail."



Sunday 11th December



This year's *Carol and Christingle services*
will be on **Sunday 11th December**
at **11am in All Saints** and
at **4pm in St Peter's Church**
who are looking forward to having the Marksbury Melody Makers brass band back again after all the Covid restrictions, thanks to Gary and Amanda, and all the players. with the Marksbury Melody Makers brass band!
The collections will go to the invaluable work of the Children's Society, which supports vulnerable children in our country. Please do come along, sing some carols and help children in special need.

& on Wednesday 21st December

CAROLS ON THE GREEN 7pm- 8pm



join us in **Marksbury** for carols accompanied by the band and enjoy seasonal refreshments.
Come warmly dressed and have a sing!
Many thanks to Sarah and Jamie Priest and family for their hospitality, and to Gary Welsh and Amanda Bayley for preparing the music.

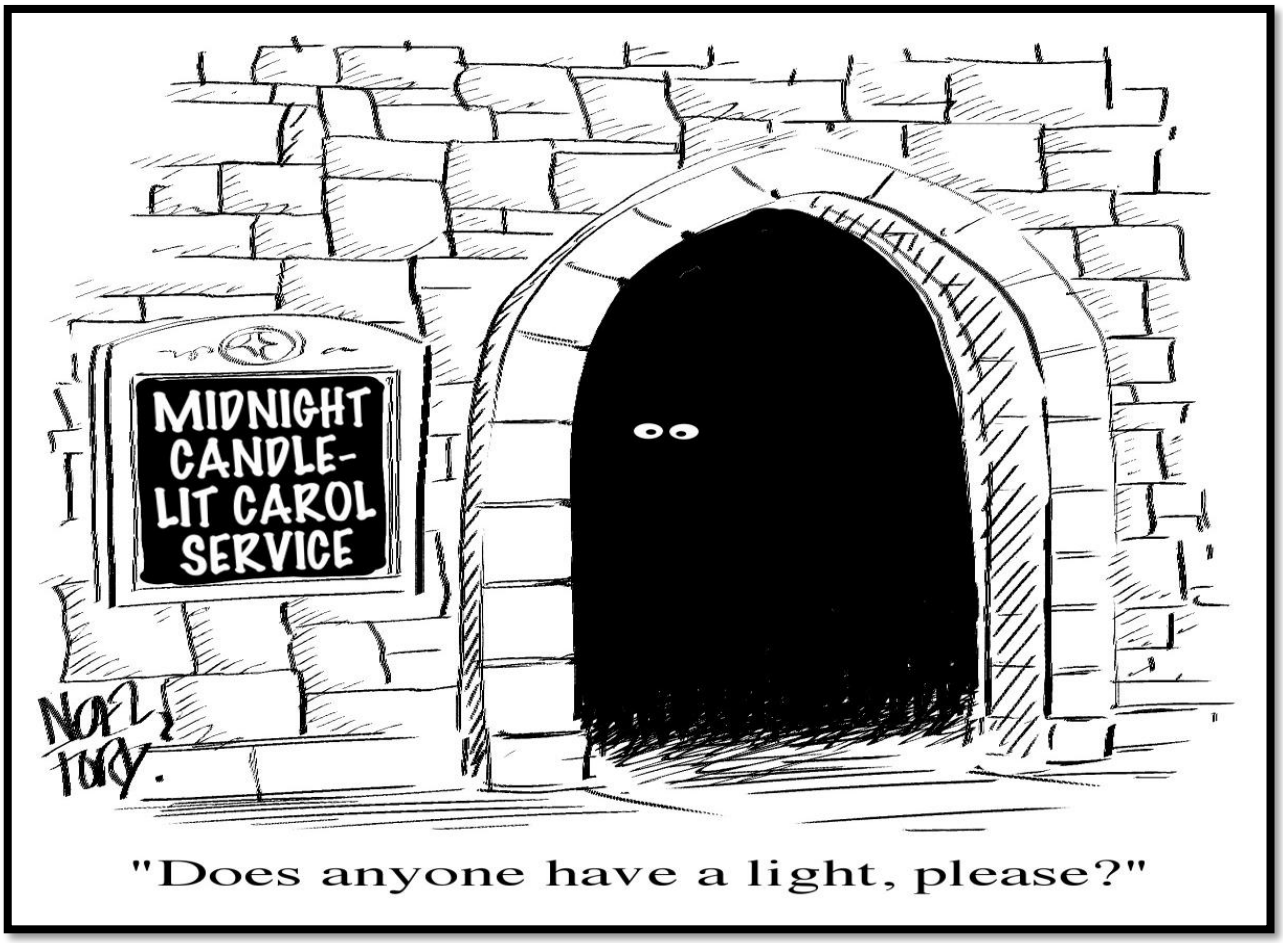
.....STANTON PRIOR

Stanton Prior

CHRISTMAS

Services all start in the church

23 December	7pm	Carol Service
24 December	11.30pm	Midnight Communion



What's On..

EVENTS in the Benefice…

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



MARKSBURY…

The next coffee morning is at 10.30am on Saturday 10th December.



There will be some goodies on sale, and also an opportunity to try your hand at making up a Christingle. These will go to church for the Christingle and Carol service the next day – service details on page 8.



Thursday Teas are on December 8th in Marksbury Church at 2.30pm, with entertainment from a class from the school – a chance to get to know both children and parents – all are welcome.



Saturday 3rd December

Last chance to book any remaining spaces for these fundraisers…. contact..
Catherine Taylor..text 07712 112622 **Call Revd. Guy** 01761 754597

Eco - Christmas Wreath Workshop

Farmborough Church

Saturday 3rd December 2.00pm



£28 - to include materials and refreshments

To reserve a place contact :
Catherine Taylor – text 07712 112622
catherinejanettaylor@hotmail.co.uk

WHISKY TASTING

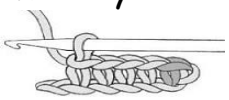
with cheese board

Saturday 3 December - 7:30pm
Stanton Prior Village Hall
Tickets - £20

Book via Revd Guy: revdguy@gmail.com or 01761 754597

Activities in our halls during December.



Marksbury Arts & Crafts	Crafties. Enjoy an evening with like-minded people.	Dec. 7th .	8pm – 10pm
Marksbury Just Sing!	Choir Jam. Sing for fun!	Dec. 6th, 13th & 20th	8pm – 10pm
Marksbury 	Crochet Group	Dec. 14th	8pm – 10pm
Farmborough CAMEO	Cameo –a talk followed by a chat & coffee.	No meeting	7.30pm – 9.30pm
Farmborough 	Floral Art – Christmas Party for members	Dec. 5th.	lunchtime
Farmborough 	Whist. Enjoy a game with others.	Dec. 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th.	7.30pm – 9.30pm
Farmborough 	Goodwill Club. Entertainment followed by tea & cake.	Dec. 8th	2.30pm – 4.00pm
Farmborough SHARE Repair	Share & Repair Café A place to bring items, from electrical to sewing, for repair so reducing waste.	Dec. 10th.	10am – 12.30pm
Farmborough 	Bingo. Try your luck & have a cuppa as well!	Nov. 26th. No Dec. session	2.30pm – 4.00pm

There are also fitness/sport-related or children/youth activities, details on hall websites

http://www.farmboroughmemorialhall.org.uk/

https://marksburyvillage.wixsite.com/hall

2023 events!!

BACK AGAIN!!

HALL QUIZ NIGHT

WITH BUTCHERS ARMS POPULAR QUIZ MASTER

PATRICK BRIDGES

QUIZ & HOT SUPPER

(2 course)

SATURDAY JANUARY 28th

FARMBOROUGH MEMORIAL HALL

DOORS OPEN 7pm QUIZ starts 7.30pm prompt

UP TO 8 IN A TEAM £10 PER PERSON

VEGETARIAN & GLUTEN FREE SUPPER OPTIONS AVAILABLE

CONTACT SALLY DAVIS 01761 472356 TO BOOK YOUR TEAM

LICENSED BAR RAFFLE

Starting again on Monday 9th January
until the end of February.



At Farmborough Hall soup lunches will resume, there will be a choice of 2 home-made soups (at least 1 will be gluten-free & vegan friendly) & tea or coffee. It's a great chance to catch up & put the world to rights in warm surroundings, during the depths of winter.

There is no charge for the soup but if you'd like to make a donation in the box that will help support a local community project such as support for homeless people.

Chris Lovell

Letter & Reports

The Colour of Christmas



Christmas is soon upon us and with it the annual display of Christmas trees and lights in towns and villages across the country. Even though December is the month of the year with the least daylight in it Christmas is always such a colourful time of year! The green of Christmas trees, the white of snow (perhaps!), the red Father Christmas's suit, and the gold of the star on top of the Christmas tree are but a few of the colours we associate with this time of year; but for the church one colour takes priority at this time - purple.

Purple is the traditional colour for this season of Advent - the colour we usually associate with Lent. It is the colour of penance, preparation, and sacrifice - values that we don't normally think about at Christmas but they still are there if you look closely. During Advent, we prepare ourselves for relatives descending on our homes, for food to be bought, and for gifts to be given; but it should also be a time when - as the carol 'Joy to the world' says - "every heart prepare Him room". It should be a time when, as we remember Jesus coming as a baby, we prepare our hearts for his return, adding depth to our hearts so that God might dwell in them and transform them so we might become more like the people he made us to be.

Advent is a time of penance as we apologise and reconcile with lost friends and estranged family members or when we say sorry to those we forget on our Christmas card lists; but it should also be a time when we say sorry for the ways we have failed to live as God's people. As we remember the light of Jesus coming into the world, we say sorry for how we fail to shine as lights for Christ in the darkness of this world.

Finally, at Christmas we sacrifice our pay cheques to bring joy to others in the gifts we give, we sacrifice our own personal preferences to join in family celebrations, and sacrifice our time as we slave over a hot stove preparing a Christmas feast. But as we sacrifice those things we should also remember the sacrifice that Christ made at Christmas as he 'emptied himself…taking on the likeness of humanity' (Philippians 2.7) so that we might be reconciled with God and consider how we too must empty ourselves of our selfish desires, something that can often be too prevalent at this time of year, and trust that what God wants is our happiness so that we might become more like Christ.

This Christmas, as we surround ourselves in green, red, gold, and white, let us remember the colour purple - the colour of penance, preparation, and sacrifice - and use this season to become more like one who gives us the cause for such celebrations, Jesus Christ.

Revd Guy

THE BELFRY BULLETIN



IT was a huge disappointment the bells at All Saints remained silent for our Patronal Festival, this was due to a scarcity of ringers. On Armistice Day, the half-muffled tenor bell was tolled prior to the two minutes silence held at 11 o'clock, further half-muffled ringing took place on Remembrance Sunday.

A campaign has been launched by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers [CCCBR] to train thousands of new ringers ahead of next year's Coronation which is due to take place on Saturday May 6. With a shortfall of some 8,000 bell ringers, it's the aim of the CCCBR to recruit and train enough campanologists to ring bells in every church throughout the land to mark the event. It's also encouraging lapsed bell ringers to return to their ringing chambers.

Apart from a short break, I've been ringing bells since the age of 10. Standing on a very large box, I was completely overawed by the people around me making it look so easy; now, for me, it's a passion.

It's not hard work, gravity does most it for you. It's the technique of handling and controlling the bell, using a rope, that needs to be developed. Once gained, bell ringing is a skill you'll never forget. If you would like to learn the ropes and ***Ring for the King*** or just take a look, please give me a call on 01761 471074 or 0797 5655 989 email p.bridges104@btinternet.com

Patrick Bridges.
Tower Captain

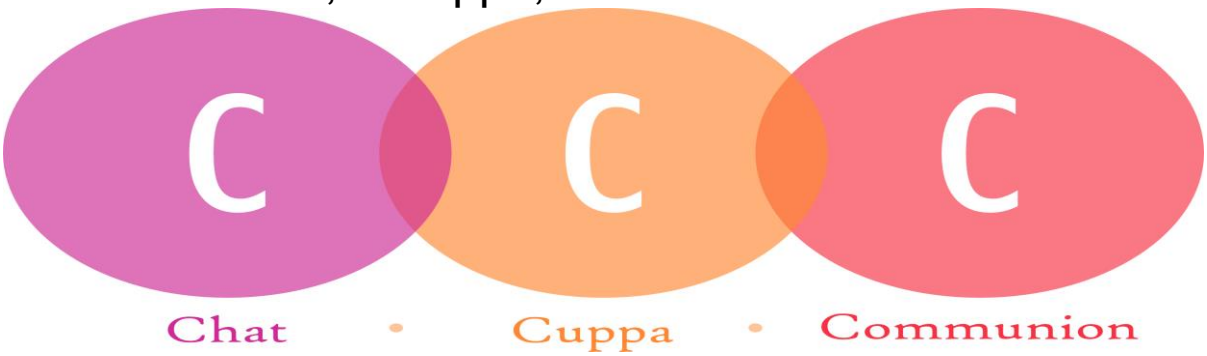
FLAG DAYS FOR DECEMBER 2022

25th - 6th	*Christmas Day until the Epiphany (January 6 2023)*



CHURCH NEWS...

Three C – A Chat, a Cuppa, Communion.



Although the worst of the pandemic is over and life is returning to what it once was I am aware that there are many in our communities who are remain isolated or lonely unable to come to social events or church services.

This may be because they are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 or perhaps it is because the social activity they used to attend has now closed.

Whatever the reason, if you wish for some company over a cuppa or a service of home communion brought to you in the comfort of your house then please do contact me, I would love to visit you. Call me on 01761 754597 or email revdguy@gmail.com.

– Revd Guy

Enquiries

about baptism, confirmation and weddings contact Revd. Guy



and

if you have new neighbours also contact Revd. Guy so they can receive a copy of Trio & a 'hello' from the Church family.



GOOD HOME

After the christening of his baby brother in church, young Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That minister said he wanted us to be brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING

Dear Boxholders,

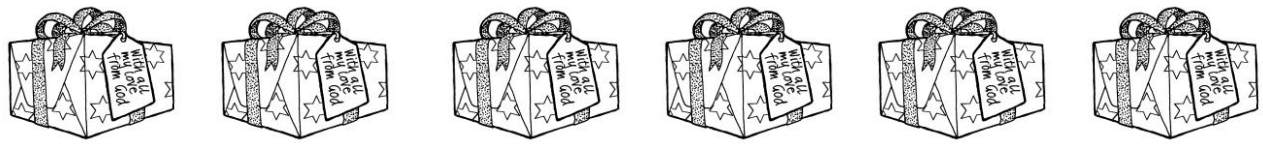
It's Box Opening time again! Please would you let us have your box to open. The boxes can be given directly to me (I'm at church most Sunday mornings); left in Church (in the Vestry) for me to collect; or if it is more convenient for you, we can collect the box from you, just give us a ring to arrange a convenient time.

You are warmly invited to come to the Christingle celebrations which will be held in the Benefice on Sunday, 11th December - in the morning in Farmborough and the afternoon in Marksbury.
Please see page 8 for further information.

Thank you so much for your continued support for the vital work the Children's Society do for disadvantaged children throughout the country. The Children's Society supports not only children in need but also their families. It also carries out vital research to identify the (often very serious) problems children face and to offer advice and to propose solutions to government and local authorities.

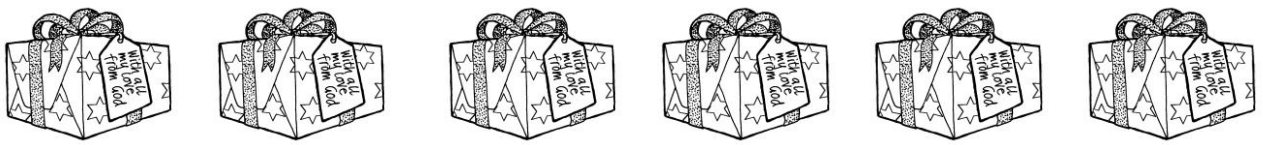
If you are interested in supporting the work of the Children's Society by becoming a 'Boxholder' please contact us. Thank you.

Liz and Steve Ladd Tel: 471666



PRESENTS

December is the month when the children begin to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas.
Some insist on getting him a shirt, others a pair of socks.
But the argument always ends in a tie.



LAST CALL FOR ORDERING…

CHRISTMAS CAKES 2022



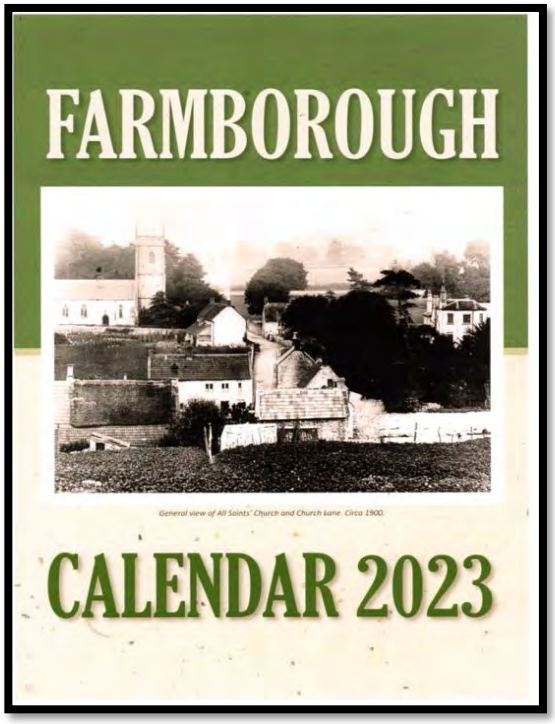
Gill Hurley is happy to make cakes to order again this year in aid of Marksbury Church.
All cakes fully iced and decorated
gluten and/or dairy free versions if required

3" £6
6" £13
8" £21

Please send orders **by December 4th** to Gill Hurley 07779315519, leaving your name and contact number.

AND

Farmborough's iconic 2023 calendar is available NOW!



This unique wall calendar is on sale and may be ordered direct from Patrick Bridges or purchased at the Community Shop.

Printed on uncoated card with a 350gm cover and backboard, each calendar contains historic pictures of the village dating from 1900 with a month to view grid. Priced at £6, they're an absolute bargain.

To order your copy of this iconic A4 document, contact Patrick at 79 Church Lane or call him on 01761 471074,
mobile 0797 5655 989,
email p.bridges104@btinternet.com or send a text.
When placing your order, please remember to leave your name, address and contact telephone number.

Order your copy today, availability is limited, you won't be disappointed with the new pictures in this edition.

Thank you.....

to all who supported the **Coffee morning at Marksbury in aid of Dorothy House & MacMillan Nurses,** a grand total in excess of **£2,250** was raised which was brilliant.

Thank you to all who came & supported **Marksbury Church November coffee morning**, when **£210** was raised, and many thanks to the Co-op for supporting the Fair Trade event and providing the refreshments.



Thank you to all who supported All Saints Annual Gift Day



Often the gift day envelopes straggle in after the actual giving day but to date, we have received **£2382**!

A big thank you to all those within the community who have responded and contributed to this year's Gift Day appeal.
£2195 was Gift Aided which means we shall claim tax from HMRC of £549, making a grand total of **£2931**for church funds.
This will greatly help with maintaining the church building and the work of the village church.

Again, many thanks.

Jan Jones, All Saints Treasurer.

VISITING FATHER CHRISTMAS

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

Thank you cont.....

to Frenzy Designs from Farmborough Memorial Hall Committee



We hope residents have noticed the new sign on the front of the Memorial Hall.

As part of our planned work the Hall cmt approached Frenzy Designs regarding new signage, however anticipating an invoice, Val Bryant the owner & Farmborough resident has waived any charge which we really appreciate as we can use that money in another way to keep the hall up together.

Thank you Val & team.
from Sally Davis (Chairman) on behalf of the Memorial Hall cmt.

Don't forget next fundraiser…
QUIZ NIGHT Jan 28th, details page 12

Thank you to all those who supported our recent fund raising event for **Children's Hospice South West – a Soup Lunch in Marksbury Village Hall.**



About 85 people came along to enjoy a variety of soups and delicious desserts. There was plenty of chatting and the hall was nearly bursting at the seams! Our Hospice Christmas cards were also popular and sold like hot cakes.

We would like to thank the many local businesses and individuals who generously donated food for the event and raffle prizes. Thank you, too, to the Village Hall committee for the use of the lovely Marksbury Hall as our venue and the use of tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery and glasses.

So far a total of **£1172** has been raised – although donations are still coming in! We were thrilled with the result, which far exceeded our expectations.
This all goes to support the brilliant work carried out at the Children's Hospice.

Ann Swabey

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

THANKFULNESS

Farmborough school continue to be busy & in November activities included…

FOXES GO POTTY!



Foxes class have had a super experience of designing, making and evaluating their own Roman pots, they took inspiration from the pots they saw at the Roman Baths a few weeks. Mr and Mrs Eddleston kindly organised the materials and tools for all of our children to throw their own pot on a potter's wheel and also to hand-build another.



They had a fantastic time and were amazed by the skill involved in producing a small pot. All the pots then went off to Mr and Mrs Eddleston's kiln to be fired and then they were brought back last week for the children to decorate, with fantastic results. A huge thank you was given to both Mr and Mrs Eddleston for their skill, enthusiasm and time in arranging for this to happen.

GERM BUSTER WORKSHOPS



A team from BANES Public Health and all classes took part in their 'Germ Buster Workshops'. The children learnt a lot about microbes, both good and bad, and the important things we can do to keep healthy. An information flyer also went home with children giving more information.

SANTA

I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.

AND…. GIRLS' FOOTBALL CUP MATCH AT ST. JOHN'S



The girls' football team travelled to St. John's Primary in Midsomer Norton for a match in the first round of the local cup. Both teams started brightly and there were chances at each end in an entertaining first half. Chloe opened the scoring after a determined run. St John's hit back soon after with a well struck equaliser to make it 1-1 at half time.

The second half continued with end-to-end action, both goalkeepers making fine saves before Farmborough stepped things up a gear with Chloe, Farmborough player of the match, scoring more to make the final score of 4-1. Well done to her, Freya, Summer, Sofia, Keira, Isla, Charlotte, Maisey and Millie for a very entertaining and exciting performance.

Marksbury school …. remembered



Many thanks to Revd Guy who attended school on **Remembrance Day** to lead the Service. The children also joined in the two minute silence at 11 o'clock to honour and remember all of those who have given their lives so that we may live our lives to the fullest today.

School have been sharing their memories of **Myrabelle**, following the sad news of her death. Myrabelle was a colleague and friend and she supported both the staff and children over the many years she worked at Marksbury.



When Myrabelle first joined the school she used to walk the children to the village hall for their lunch! She is very much missed by the staff and children, who all enjoyed chatting and playing with her over lunchtimes. On the 18th, in memory of Myrabelle, school had a pink, blue and koala day (Myrabelle collected all things koalas).

Time was also spent time recording memories of her time at school to share with her family.

and have also been out & about..

Ocean class visited the **Life Skills Centre** in Bristol this week. It was an amazing experience and one that children talk about for many years after a visit. The scenarios within the centre help the children to build up a bank of strategies to be used if and when they are ever faced with an emergency. We have had some lovely feedback from the children and parents about how much the children enjoyed it this year.

and Stream class visited St Peter's in November to meet their parents and members of the school and church community. They were very proud to share their term's learning around Florence Nightingale.



They performed a poem and shared interesting facts as well as discussing what qualities they thought a nurse should have.
Thankyou Stream class for speaking so clearly and sharing your knowledge.

THE HOLY FAMILY

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"
One child answered, "Mary."
The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"
Another child ventured: "Verge?"
Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"
He replied hesitantly: "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary.

Marksbury Prayer Diary.



Prayers in December: We pray for the whole village, with special emphasis on the area from Priston Lane, Mollifrend Lane and West Tyning.

If anyone has a particular need for prayer (which will be treated confidentially), please contact Revd Guy (754597) or Judith (470317).





For all the Saints



Spotlighting a brave life this month

Who was the real Santa Claus ?

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara in Turkey. At the time the area was Greek. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to, "Sell what you own and give the money to the poor", Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need and his love for children. Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned under the Roman Emperor Diocletian who ruthlessly persecuted Christians.
One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home-providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas.
St Nicholas or Santa Claus as he is also known — that big, jolly man in the red suit with a white beard — didn’t always look that way. In fact, prior to 1931, Santa was depicted as a tall gaunt bishop. Thomas Nast drew Santa Claus for Harper's Weekly in 1862, in the USA, changing the colour of his coat to the red for which he is known today. In 1931 Coca-Cola developed advertising images using Santa Claus, commissioning the illustrator Haddon Sundblom. For inspiration, Sundblom turned to Clement Clark Moore's 1822 poem "'Twas the Night Before Christmas", creating an image of a warm, friendly, pleasantly plump and human Santa. This image remains today the iconic Santa.





MW

SEASONAL SMILES

Children's version of the Christmas story
- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manager.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

What do you call Santa's helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!"
"What part?" asked his mother.
"I'm one of the three wise guys!"

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



"The vicar's still miffed that one of the parents got £250 from You've Been Framed for their video of last year's nativity play."

CHURCH OFFICIALS

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel demanded.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two big men standing by the door and glaring at you? They're hushers."

Around the Diocese
News in brief.

Bishop Michael gifts a thousand tree samplings at installation.



The 80th Bishop of Bath and Wells Rt Revd Michael Beasley gifts a thousand tree saplings to guests attending his welcome service at Wells Cathedral.

Royal visitor thanks refugee supporters in Wiveliscombe.



The Countess of Wessex attends a tea party at St Andrew's Church to meet Ukrainian guests, host families and the charity which supports them.

Gathering together in collective worship on the beach.



This summer thousands of Christians gathered on beaches along the South West Coast Path to form a ring of prayer and praise as part of South West Awake. Beacons were lit along the 630 miles of coastline as groups came together and prayed together.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

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mail@kc-printing.co.uk Tel:01761 490361

Jesus Christ the Appletree

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see,
In Jesus Christ the Appletree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the Appletree.

I'm weary with my former toil -
Here I will sit and rest awhile,
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the Appletree.

With great delight I'll make my stay,
There's none shall fright my soul away;
Among the sons of men I see
There's none like Christ the Appletree.

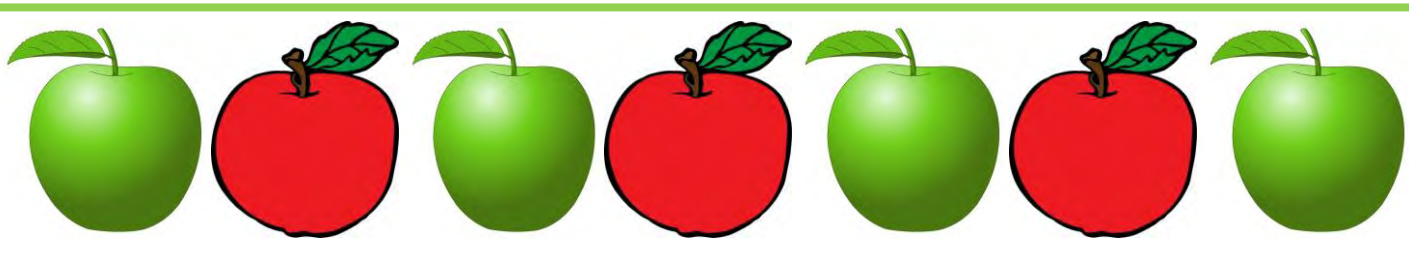
I'll sit and eat this fruit divine,
It cheers my heart like spirit'al wine;
And now this fruit is sweet to me,
That grows on Christ the Appletree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the Appletree.



The first known publication, beginning *The Tree of Life My Soul Hath Seen*, was in 1761. This credits "R.H." as author. R.H. is possibly Rev. Richard Hutchins, from Northamptonshire. The song may be an allusion to both the apple tree in Song of Solomon 2:3 which has been interpreted as a metaphor representing Jesus, and to his description of his life as a tree of life. Apple trees were commonly grown in England and there was an old English tradition of wassailing or wishing health to apple trees on Christmas Eve. Another motivation of the song may have been to Christianize old English winter season songs used in wassailing the apple orchards — pouring out libations or engaging in similar ceremonies to seek fertility of the trees. The song is now performed by choirs around the world, especially during the Christmas season as a Christmas carol composed by Elizabeth Poston in 1967.

MW



PUZZLE SECTION!

Have a go!!

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

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Easy Sudoku

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

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Medium Sudoku

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

Easy Sudoku

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

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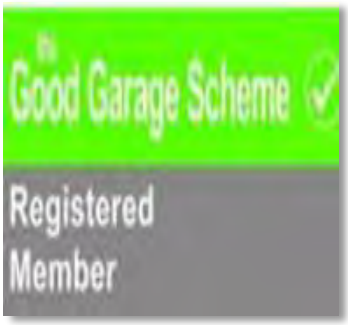
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