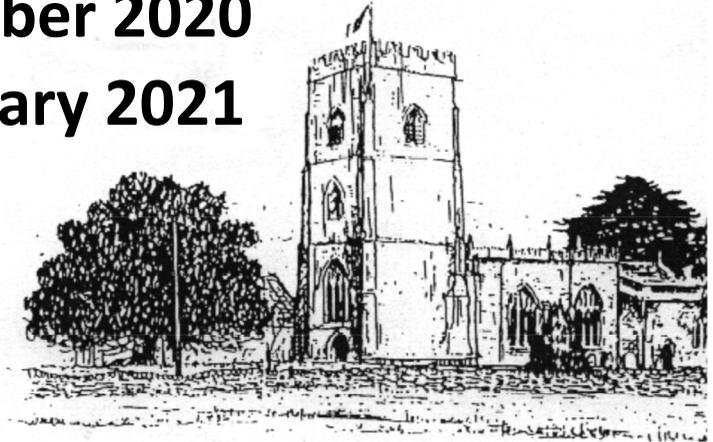


The Parish Churches of Rodney Stoke and Draycott December 2020 & January 2021



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Winter Wonder

A Month in our Country

PTAF News

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Poem

50p

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Church services in December and January



Our churches plan to resume regular services from **Sunday 6 December**. These will be at 9:30 am in Draycott, and 11:00 am in Rodney Stoke. Services will be Morning Prayer and Holy Communion on alternate weeks (though not every Sunday in Rodney Stoke - see calendar for details). Churches will continue to open for individual visits - daily in St Leonard's, and Fridays to Monday in St Peter's.

Christmas services and events

There will be a **Carol Service in St Peter's Draycott at 4 pm on Sunday 20 December**. Socially distanced with a small choir, organist Barry Rose will lead us in some of our favorite carols, interspersed with readings. All are welcome (but the church will have limited capacity - first come, first seated). A **recorded version** of this service will be available early in December.

On Christmas Eve:

St Leonard's Rodney Stoke will be open from 3pm – 6pm for a candle-lit family promenade service with the church decorated, the crib and Christmas music re-creating the wintery intimacy of its traditional Christmas Eve Service as families linger to soak up the atmosphere.

A service of **Holy Communion will be held at 9 pm at St Peter's Draycott (and at 11:30pm in St Andrew's, Cheddar)**.

On **Christmas Day**, there will be morning services at all churches in the benefice, including at **9:00 at Rodney Stoke** and at **10:00 at Draycott** (and at both 8:00 and 10:00 in Cheddar).

ZOOM services

ZOOM services for the benefice continue. Sunday services will be at 11:30 am with shorter services of weekday evening prayer at 8:30 pm, and morning prayer at 10:00 am on Saturday. There will be a **service of candle-lit carols** on Sunday 20 December at 6:00 pm on ZOOM with a **Christmas Day Holy Communion service** at 10:00 am. If you would like to join any of these services, please email the Rector for joining instructions and to be added to the email circulation list – stuart.burns01@gmail.com.

Please note that, services are constantly reviewed and may need to be varied in the light of new guidance – the most up-to-date information will be posted on the website: www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk.

Pastoral Letter to the Benefice from Stuart Burns

Comfort
and Joy



Dear Friends,

“Comfort and Joy” is the Church of England’s 2020 national Christmas campaign. It holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year, with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – it may be the Church’s role to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation. The Church will need, in the words of St Paul in Romans 12.15, to “Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep”, celebrating where we can together – but also embracing a wider community that may not be physically able – or emotionally ready – to celebrate. We need this Christmas both to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past, and also very clearly to express God’s consoling love in the present.

This is just how St Andrew’s, St Leonard’s and St Peter’s will try to “do Christmas” this year - acknowledging how people are feeling, and trying to be real to that. We shall offer as many of our regular services as possible, and sincerely encourage and warmly welcome you to join us at them. As well as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in the church buildings, we shall hold both a Christingle Service, as well as a traditional Carol Service (on 20/12 at 6pm) on Zoom - these are for everybody - please email me to request the Zoom joining details.

Christmas is about *incarnation*, which means “becoming flesh”. Jesus was to be called *Immanuel*, which means “God with us”. The humanity of Jesus meant that he did experience anxiety, loneliness, bereavement, illness, frailty and also death. This must be powerfully relevant to us in this Covid-Christmas year. I deeply hope that we shall all sense that the Spirit of the risen Jesus will comfort us and our families this Christmas. It is quite alright not to find joy easy, but God’s comfort and personal, loving consolation is what we are absolutely right to expect.

May the Lord’s peace overwhelm you, and hope from him for 2021 empower you, this Christmas.

In the love of Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Stuart Burns". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a personal style.

Letter from the Right Reverend Ruth Worsley Bishop of Taunton

Bringing comfort and joy

One of our oldest (16th century) English carols tells us that the story of Jesus' birth as a baby into our world, is good news, bringing "tidings of comfort and joy". And don't we just need comfort and joy at this moment!



We know that Christmas will not be the same this year. The usual gatherings of family and friends will not have the familiar shape. Traditional carol services and Midnight Mass may not be possible either but that doesn't mean that Christmas is cancelled.

This year more than ever we need to carol the words, 'comfort and joy'. We need to find new and novel ways of telling the Christmas story. The Church of England and our own diocesan team have provided plenty of ideas by which we can bring Christmas to our communities. I'm going to be both a tax collector and a donkey in some of our diocesan video re-telling of the story!

Perhaps even more important is how we can personally be messengers of comfort and joy. Who do you know who might need you to bring them some comfort this Christmas? Maybe someone who is alone, especially anxious, grieving a loved one? How could you offer comfort and support?

And as for joy...? Perhaps we ourselves need to rediscover the joy of the Christmas story. What could be more wonderful than knowing that God loves us so much that even though it was costly, He chose to come and join us in a world, dark with fear and suffering, and bring the light of His presence!

Ruth Worsley

Rodney Stoke Village Christmas Tree at the Pound

Rumours suggest that the Friends of St Leonard's will be erecting the village Christmas tree complete with lights and decorations in the Village Pound next to the bus stop in early December as usual. It will be a quieter affair than normal with all the COVID related guidance and requirements strictly observed I am sure. A welcome sight for all it will be redolent of the Bishop's 'tidings of comfort and joy'.

Autumn Light



A few months ago the ‘Guardian’ newspaper wrote about a book published some 25 years ago by Pico Iyer, an American who married a Japanese woman and then wrote about living in what was at the time still almost countryside. Having done National Service in Japan during the Korean war, I was totally grasped by it.

A few weeks ago I miraculously happened to see on Wells library bookshelves a book Iyer wrote 25 years later (‘Autumn Light’ 2019) about life today in the same place, which has now become a built up suburb with a very different feel.

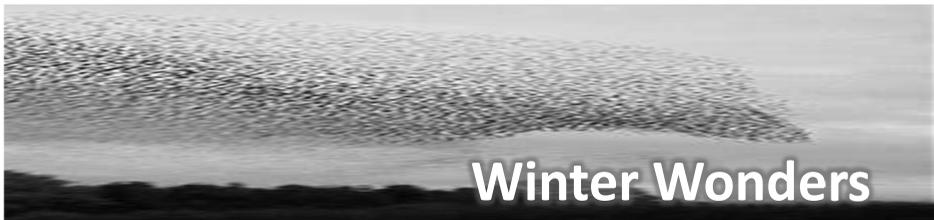
It’s about life in Japan in the autumn, and how amidst all the growth and technology there yet remain strong links with the older world, with visits to temples and a sense of a continuing relationship with the departed, all of this sensed more strongly in the declining autumnal months, not unlike our All Saints and All Souls. The Japanese also have a sense of everything somehow being alive and everything and everybody being related to everything else, giving a feeling of unity with nature and the world, which I often feel if I’m tidying the vegetable patch, pull up a bit of vegetable by mistake and automatically apologise to it. I’m a part of it.

But in the autumn of our lives, which will be the case for many readers of this, the nature of our relationships to each other and the world also change and mature. As an 88 year old I simply must pass on to those autumnal readers like myself a sentence in the book which is not gloomy as it appears at first sight, but profoundly true and very positive. It can be applied not only to close personal relationships, but to our relationships with everything:

Dying is the art we have to master, not death; late love settles into us as spring romances never could.

Please read that again and ponder it, because I think it speaks positively to whatever religious tradition people come from. All that surrounds us is wonderful and alive in a way we could not appreciate in younger years.

Gordon Jeff



Winter Wonders

I have to confess I was inspired to write this after hearing a piece on the World at One on Radio 4, the producer of which has had the brilliant idea over the last few weeks of finishing the programme with something to cheer us up. We have all been saying or thinking to ourselves that the various safety precautions that we are having to take during the winter will be harder to bear due to the seasonal weather preventing us from getting outside to exercise, work in the garden or socialise in small groups. The extremely inspiring and encouraging woman on the radio, whose name I am sorry I did not catch, suggested that we should look at things in a different way.

Going for a walk in the cold or rain is perfectly possible if you have appropriate clothing. Put on your warm coats and boots and venture out to see and hear the often beautiful and uplifting sights and sounds of winter. It is all very different and a fresh mind set is needed to appreciate the season.

Winter is a necessary part of nature's cycle, a resting period for plants and animals, including human beings. Without it there will be no spring re-birth.



Children enjoy the winter, splashing in puddles, breaking the ice and playing in the snow. When did we lose these simple enjoyments, perhaps you never did? The hardest part is motivating yourself to dress up warmly and venture out, but it will lift your spirits, I promise you. You may see or hear

winter wonders of your own, if so, write them down as soon as possible and send them to the editor for the February magazine, deadline 11th January, it would be cheering to read about them.

We all took greater heed of our surroundings in the spring this year so there should be no need to stop looking now. Keep the faith everyone – soon there will be snowdrops again.

Ann Percival

Please email in details of your own Winter Wonders to Ann at editor.rsdparishmag@gmail.com so they can form the basis for a future article. Just a few words is all that is needed.

It has been a busy ZOOM month, with the Diocese of Bristol deconstructed environment conference and the Green Christian 3-day festival 'Re-imagining the Promised Land'. Speakers including Jonathon Porritt, Cleo Lake, Bishop James Jones and Sir Ghillean Prance and can be viewed at <https://greenchristian.org.uk/festival2020/>. Bishop James Jones started the festival with these words:

A month in our country

What we are now doing to the earth is nothing short of the Earthing of Hell ... By living in the self-centred way that we are, we are gradually turning the Earth to waste. We are polluting the atmosphere, poisoning the rivers and the oceans, contaminating the land; we are earthing Hell.

Looking into lockdown and beyond, the 13 November marked the second anniversary of Bristol City's Council declaration of climate emergency, whilst the UN COP26 climate conference has been postponed, although a youth led 'Mock COP26' international conference is happening (19 Nov - 1 Dec) which will hopefully inspire leaders. December 12 marks five years since the Paris Agreement. Currently no country meets its commitment to keep the world within 1.5°C of warming.

As we look forward to Christmas, we remember God becoming one of us, a God who loves and dwells in all his creation. St Francis of Assisi, apparently worried about materialism, created the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve 1223 in a cave outside Greccio, with local people and animals, as an aid to imagination



I want to do something that will recall the memory of that Child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by.

As we look to the New Year, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons comes into force on 22 January, and efforts to prompt legislation, such as the CEE Bill set for a second reading on the 12 March, to commit the government to adequate action on climate change continue. The New Year will end with the postponed COP26 conference.

Ben Buse

We would like to start this month's article with a big "THANK YOU" to the Community Shop for all their hard work in organising the village pumpkin trail. The shop generously donated all funds raised from the trail (£130) to the PTAF for new reading books. This along with some other very generous donations brings our total to the £500 target, meaning the children can now get some lovely new books.



We are aware that last month we may have overloaded you with ways in which you could help raise funds for our small village school, we thank everyone who has joined Amazon Smile or Easy Fundraising. Over the next few



newsletters we would like to share with you how we use the money we have raised. Through regular PTAF committee meetings we are able to discuss with Mr Ewens and staff, areas in which the school would benefit from our help. It was decided to allot each class a set amount, allowing the Class Teacher to select specific resources for their class needs, for example new educational board games, which the children thoroughly enjoy!

School Eco-Bags

This year the children were all asked to draw a picture of something for which they were thankful. These pictures have been used to make a beautiful, colourful tote bag which will soon be for sale from Seagers Farm Shop or the PTAF.

Christmas Cards

This year's Christmas card is a whole school effort. Mrs Budd rose to the challenge to include every pupil's finger print into a Christmas tree design. These cards will be available (packs of 8 cards for £4) from the Community Shop soon!



If you would like further information on anything we have mentioned, please contact Samm Richards (samm_percival@yahoo.co.uk). Thank you for all your ongoing support and we wish you a Happy Christmas!

Music Matters

Will there be carols this year?



The first account of carol-singing that we know of comes from the life of St Francis of Assisi, who died almost 800 years ago. In order to bring home the wonder of Christmas Day to his people he organised nativity plays – with adults and real shepherds rather than primary school children – played in a specially built wooden shed beside the church. He wrote songs, in Italian rather than Latin, to teach the people the story of the incarnation through entertainment.

Somerset also became a great centre of carol-singing; it mostly happened on Christmas Eve, which was called Wait-night or Watch-night in the West-country, probably because of the story of the shepherds watching their flocks in the fields. Groups of boys and young men, called the Waits, would travel round the village houses, singing and hoping for refreshment. There are lovely descriptions of this sort of carol-singing in Laurie Lee's *Cider with Rosie* and Dylan Thomas's *A child's Christmas in Wales*.

The songs they sang were quite local to their own areas: sometimes even to their own villages. There seem to have been two main types of carols. In some, they recount legendary events, such as *There stood in Heaven a cherry-tree* or *As Joseph was a-walking* or *I saw three ships come sailing by*. Others are about carol-singing itself, such as *Here we come a-wassailing* or *We wish you a Merry Christmas* or *Past Three o' clock, and a cold, frosty morning*.

In 1880, Bishop (later Archbishop) Benson of Truro arranged a service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 10.00pm on Christmas Eve, thus bringing carols out of the streets and into the church, and importantly attracting the Cornish men out of the pubs. This service was held not in the present cathedral, which was only at foundation-level at the time, but in a great wooden shed in the centre of Truro. The songs they sang then were modern hymns: *Once in Royal David's City* and *Hark, the Herald-angels sing*.

Will there be carols this year? We'll do our best.

David Cheetham.

Remembrance at Rodney Stoke

For the week of 11 November, the flower arrangements in St Leonard's reflected on the theme of Remembrance.

Poppies, the flower of remembrance, were the cornerstone of the arrangements. For the altar table Honor Neave used rosemary too as greenery, which also signifies remembrance, combined with silken poppies.

Vicky Andrews used handmade textile poppies strung across the rood screen and created a stunning, symbolic wreath with its cascade of poppies falling to the ground.



Half Term to Christmas



The first half term at school ended positively and as a staff team, we were all so proud of the children and what they achieved. The children lit up the school with their infectious enthusiasm, endless positivity and love of learning and it was just brilliant having them all back. The second half term of the school year has started very well too, with the children returning after the half term with their usual zest for learning. We returned with news of further restrictions being placed on us all, but with explanations from staff at school, the children adapted well to some of the newer changes.

In Skylark class, with our youngest learner, it has been amazing to see how quickly the children have settled into school life and adjusted to the routines and structure of the day. The class term focus has been on autumn stories and learning to read, with a focus on the children learning their letter sounds and being introduced to a wide range of stories and rhymes.

The Goldfinches, years 1 and 2, have all settled back into school very well and have explored toys from the past, used charcoal and chalk to draw the chard leaves they grew in the summer, as well as learning all the routines as a new class. The children have enjoyed making new friends (including Miss Tunks our trainee teacher) as well as helping each other with tricky problems like making sure they remember all the sounds needed to spell long words. A particular favourite has been maths on Fridays when the children are the teachers and explain their thinking from the front!

Kestrel class, years 3 and 4, have been learning French and are becoming quite confident with how to greet people, ask how they are and what is your name. They have been playing games to help them remember the phrases.

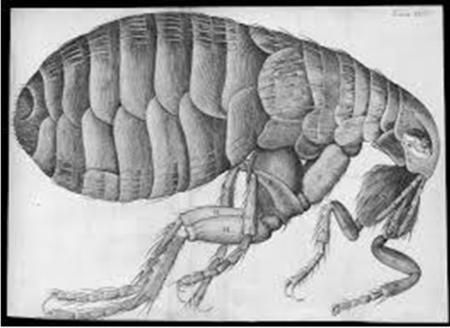
We are now looking forward to Christmas at school, which this year will be different, but staff at school have many plans and ideas to ensure the children experience lots from this special time of year.

Matt Perrett

..... a service without words

It was a lesson in simplicity. We all gathered, properly socially distanced, near the tower in the churchyard, on the verge and across the road. Charlotte Levy had climbed up to the tower roof with her trumpet and, as the eleventh chime of the bell died away, she played the familiar bugle call beautifully. It rang out across the moor, clearly audible in Draycott and probably as far as Cheddar I imagine. Then there was a long and thoughtful two minutes followed by the second familiar call. No one moved for an eternity, all lost in our own quiet contemplations. Little was then said.





Robert Hooke *Micrographia* (1665)

“Hic insipit pestis” *perhaps the plague is back*

Not a quote from Britain’s greatest playwright William Shakespeare (apologies to Sir Noel Coward) but from vicar John Bretchgirdle, recording the demise of one Oliver Gunne in his Parish Register. Gunne was the victim

of bubonic plague and a modern-day plague is indeed how Covid-19 or coronavirus has often been viewed. All of which leads to the musing “how would Shakespeare have dealt with Covid?”.

Wretched and dangerous as Covid undoubtedly is, it pales when compared to the plague of yore. Shakespeare grew up at a time when 25% of the population were killed by the plague. It is an astonishing, terrifying, figure. The one-in-four fatalities meant nobody was unaffected. Like all creative artists, this fact fed into and became a part of Shakespeare’s oeuvre.

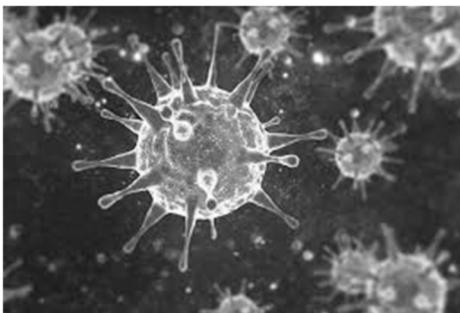
The Globe Theatre is the venue most closely associated with performances of The Bard’s work but between 1603 and 1613, a ten year 120 month period, the theatre was closed for an astonishing 78 months: a near sixty per cent stretch. In fact, acting – or ‘playing’ – was banned completely for a brief time in 1606.

Being Shakespeare, this proved no block for his creativity, as he is thought to have written *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Coriolanus*, *Timon Of Athens* and other plays during these periods when his works could not be shown. It is also thought that he wrote poetry, such as *Venus And Adonis*. He was not a man for idling his days away, moaning his possible fate, although he was undoubtedly fortunate to emerge unmarked, when so many were felled.

He rarely acknowledged the plague in his writings but an early example has the Friar, on his way to inform Romeo that Juliet hasn’t, in fact, died being suspected of having stayed in an infected house. The Friar is thus quarantined and the message lost, setting the scene for the final tragic denouement. Two more quotations, both from *King Lear*, stand out, viz. “*Plagues that hang in this pendulous air*” and “*’tis the times’ plague when madmen lead the blind*”.

Both very apposite and another demonstration of how despite the many centuries, pestilence and mankind have changed very little in so many ways. So what can we learn from Shakespeare’s words? Inevitably, given the dire years of the early 17th century, nobody wanted to be ‘entertained’ by more gloom, so nobody explicitly perishes from the plague but lessons there are.

Unlike many leaders of nations in 2020, Shakespeare didn't scuttle away to safety, neither did his works involve a magical cure for any real-life ills. The very fact that his King Lear eventually becomes a changed figure, at last alert to the sufferings of his people is a lesson many a politician and official



Government spokesmen would do well to heed. Throughout this pandemic, Shakespeare continues to be taught online and continues to remain as pertinent now as he was 400 years ago. No, his many words won't contribute towards a coronavirus vaccine but there is much that is still relevant today.

Ade Macrow

St Peter's Draycott Annual Parochial Church Meeting

On 14 October 2020 we held our long postponed annual church meeting. The APCM is a public event to appoint officers, and to review activities in the year just past, and look forward to the one ahead. But this year, only a small group of us (six) were able to meet together online. This in itself was a reflection of the times, and the challenges currently facing the churches.

St Peter's in 2019 fared much the same as in previous years; in addition to a full programme of Sunday and other services we had a range of social and fundraising events. Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020 however forced us to close the churches and cease almost all of these activities. And from breaking even, we are now losing money. Our experiences mirror those of so many organisations in the country - indeed, in the world.

We are, as our rector Stuart remarked, still in mourning over the loss of so much. However, we have also achieved a remarkable transformation, in all churches in our benefice. By the end of March we began to hold worship online, after Ben Buse in Rodney Stoke introduced us to the ZOOM video-conferencing platform. By Easter in mid April, there were more than 100 participating in online Sunday worship, and 20 or 30 in regular evening worship. Our musicians in Draycott and Cheddar record hymns to enhance our Sunday services (now also recorded- see website). Stuart now communicates by weekly email to keep us updated on all church matters. With Rodney Stoke we continued to produce a high quality church magazine. And we responded quickly to open all our churches again for individual visits, then Sunday worship, as soon as the rules permitted.

Looking forward, this resilience in our church community gives us hope

Our meeting concluded with a heartfelt thanks to all those whose hard work and resourcefulness has allowed us to maintain our church life. *Chris Green*

For the full report on the APCM, visit www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk.

The return of Patricia's Pantry
**God gave us memory so that we might have
roses in December**



In 1917, Halifax, Nova Scotia, was devastated by the world's largest pre-nuclear explosion.

The First World War had been underway for three years, and Halifax prospered as it became the hub of Canada's war effort. Halifax boasts one of the finest ice-free harbours in North America, and thousands of Canadian, British Empire and American troops - and their essential supplies - passed through on their way to European battlefields.

On December 6th 1917, the Mont Blanc, a French cargo ship laden with high explosives and bound for Europe, collided with the Norwegian Imo, en route to New York to pick up relief supplies. A fire followed and worsened. At 9:04 am, the Mont Blanc's cargo detonated, unleashing one seventh of the force that would later destroy Hiroshima. Almost two thousand Haligonians were killed instantly, and virtually all buildings within half a mile radius vaporized. The harbour bottom was briefly exposed by the displacement of water, and a sixty foot tsunami followed, devastating the harbourside. A local Mi'kmaq community was wiped out, fires spread as damaged buildings toppled onto lanterns and stoves, over 9000 Haligonians were injured, and a further 25,000 lacked shelter as winter beckoned. The following day, a blizzard dropped sixteen inches of snow.

Pieces of the Mont Blanc, including her anchor and deck gun, were found miles away. The blast shattered windows in Truro, sixty miles from Halifax, and the boom was heard as far afield as Prince Edward Island and Massachusetts.

Halifax rebuilt and found hope where it could. Haligonian doctors became world leaders in treating blindness, and, following his Halifax experience, a Bostonian doctor pioneered pediatric surgery. The explosion prompted the largest and most sustained early exercise in Canadian social work. Jane Wisdom, the only social worker in the city, was spared after leaving her office to find aspirin. Within hours, she had organized collection and distribution of food, clothing, blankets and fuel.

To commemorate Boston's help, Haligonians began selecting a fifty foot conifer every year for Boston's Christmas celebrations. The tradition continues, with Nova Scotia's gift lighting Boston Common throughout the Christmas season.

Tricia & Murray Heckbert

What a Tree-mendous Idea

As we gather round our Christmas trees, we could pause to reflect what an amazingly important part of our environment trees are. They capture carbon, stabilise and protect the soil, provide food and shelter to many animal species, and can help to form 'corridors' for wildlife connecting two areas of habitat. They also help to reduce flooding, and diminish air pollution. And they have been doing it all for millions of years! There is even evidence now that regular exposure to trees and green surroundings improves people's mental health. Little wonder then, that increasing the number of trees worldwide has been adopted as an important part of the fight against the looming climate and environmental crisis.



We have a long way to go in the UK as tree cover accounts for only 13% of our land, whereas in the rest of Europe the figure approaches 37%. There are nearly three million people in our country who don't have green space within 10 minutes of their homes. It is also reckoned that we need millions more trees to help us reach the government target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. So there are lots of reasons to get planting. However, it is of course very important that the right trees are planted in the right places. So how can we help? A charity called The Woodland Trust gives very sound advice to would-be planters, and also has a scheme to give away free hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities, details are on their website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk.

And if you don't have access to any land for planting trees, you can offer your labour and volunteer for a local scheme to plant trees, such as the one run by the community group 'Reimagining the Levels'. This is a local partnership including Somerset Rivers Authority, Farmers and Wildlife Advisory Group SouthWest and the Woodland Trust. Their strap line is 'Think global, act local'. Their tree-planting programme has been somewhat hampered by lockdown in November, but is planned to continue now from December through to March. They are enlisting volunteers, via <https://reimaginingthelevels.org.uk/> .

Nikki Devitt

Supporters of St Peter's (SOSP)
**Wish you all a peaceful Christmas and invite you to join in
with the following:**
Nativity in the Glebe Field
Interested in helping? Please contact **Janette Vining**
07967636260
Christmas Wreath Festival & Giving Weekend!!
St Peter's Church
Saturday 5th December 10.30-2pm + Sunday 6th 12-2pm
For more details contact **karen: 01749870067**
karenpercival100@btinternet.com
*There will also be a collection box for monetary donations in
lieu of missed fundraising events.*
Or you can leave a donation at the Community Shop
Thank you
Please come & support us if you can.



At the time of writing we are still not able to book our usual fun & fundraising events, but we are planning in the background & look forward to welcoming everyone back to Coffee & Cake as soon as we are allowed to meet again. Please lookout for the SOSP Banner on the Glebe Field, or posters or just watch this space.

Rodney Stoke Christmas Treats



Exquisite and handmade using beautiful decommissioned antique Vestments from St Leonard's and other carefully curated vintage trims and fabrics, each unique decoration is 12 to 14cm long.

Contact Honor on 01749 870053 or email honor.n@btinternet.com
'a treasure to keep for a lifetime and a present beyond price'

All proceeds in aid of St Leonard's Church funds

St Leonard's Rodney Stoke Christmas Card 2020 Judy's Winter Harvest



Carrying on what has become a truly internationally acclaimed tradition, this year's Honor's 2020 Christmas Card is now on sale in full colour. It is a perfect and unique way to send Christmas best wishes and greetings to family and friends all over the world.

Pack of 10 for £5

Please contact Honor
on 01749 870053 or
at honor.n@btinternet.com .

All proceeds in aid of St Leonard's Church funds

Community of the Sisters of the Church

82, Ashley Road,
Bristol BS6 5NT



Tel: 0117 941 3268
Mobile: 07846 629086

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters

What a year!

In 2019 in preparation for our Christmas parcels, we asked all our supporters to focus on gifts. This worked very well, so could we ask the same this year please?

GIFTS FOR ADULTS (please note that we have FOUR times more men callers than women, so gifts for men are the greater priority!)

For Men: gloves, warm scarves, hats, socks and especially toiletry sets.

For Ladies: gloves, warm scarves and hats, socks, and individual toiletries

ARGOS VOUCHERS FOR CHILDREN

We are asking for money donations for Argos vouchers, so that we could give a £15 voucher per child to all the families that we know are in need, as we have done in previous years.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDS

All donations are most welcome! We also use some of our donated funds to top up gas and electricity meter keys for our most vulnerable callers and families, and we occasionally help out with household goods.

We are so grateful to everyone who enables our ministry to continue. THANK YOU!

Sr Teresa Mary CSC

Sr Rosina CSC

Revd Alison Jones

NB. Contributions of the usual groceries are also welcome. Please could all gifts be brought by the end of 6th Dec to either: St Peter's Church, Draycott (leave them at the back), or to: The Old Forge, Stoke Street, Rodney Stoke. Or do ring for a collection- 01749 870554 or 01749 870611. Apologies for the short notice!



HOOD'S TREE SERVICES

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Mary's Recipe and Don's Poem



Christmas Song

Above the weary waiting world,
Asleep in chill despair,
There breaks a sound of joyous bells
Upon the frosted air.
And o'er the humblest roof-tree, lo,
A star is dancing on the snow.
What makes the yellow star to dance
Upon the brink of night?
What makes the breaking dawn to glow
So magically bright,—
And all the earth to be renewed
With infinite beatitude?
The singing bells, the throbbing star,
The sunbeams on the snow,
And the awakening heart that leaps
New ecstasy to know,—
They all are dancing in the morn
Because a little child is born.

Bliss Carman (1861-1929)

**2 pork spare ribs
racks—about 1 kg
each**
**100ml tomato
ketchup**
2 tbsp clear honey
1 tbsp dark soy sauce
1tbsp olive oil
1tbsp malt vinegar
2tsp Dijon mustard
Salt & black pepper

Pork Spare Ribs

1. Arrange the ribs on a wire rack in a large roasting tin. Combine the remaining ingredients in a bowl. Brush the ribs generously on both sides with the marinade.
2. Roast the ribs in a preheated oven, 200° C, Gas Mark 6 for 30 Minutes.
3. Baste the ribs on both sides with the marinade, using a clean brush, & roast for a further 30 Minutes until golden & sticky.
4. Remove from the oven, brush over the remaining marinade & leave to cool for 5 minutes before serving, divided into 4 portions.



Benefice of Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke

Necessity was ever the mother of invention and there is no need to miss out on carols and carol services this Christmas. You might like to try one or both of the following innovations:

Carols by candlelight – a service at home with ZOOM Sunday 20th December 6.00pm

- A gathering of not more than 6 people organized so as to comply with the COVID rules as they apply on the day
- Hosted by someone with
 - a room large enough for 6 to sit socially distanced apart
 - access to the internet so you can at least hear the Service on ZOOM
- invite friends or neighbours to a total of 6, to include your family 'bubble'
- sit by candlelight if possible and safe to do so
- have copies of the carols to hand so you can sing along quietly, with masks on if necessary
- possibly followed by mince pies, festive fare and maybe something stronger.
- the Service will be available on YouTube too, so you could hold this event at a later time/date to suit. Use your imagination but stay safe

This may all fall by the wayside if the rules change, although the Zoom event will happen. so it is hoped church members will take the initiative themselves, not forgetting friends and others who may not be regular church attenders but appreciate a Carol Service. If you want to be a host then please contact the benefice office on 01934 742535 by Thursday 10 December so you can be sent the words of the carols to copy for your guests. It is important to respect the feelings of those who, for whatever reason, would not want to meet in this way.

Family Promenade at St Leonard's Rodney Stoke – a walk-through alternative 3pm-6pm Christmas Eve Thursday 24 December

Unfortunately, this year St Leonard's Rodney Stoke cannot welcome families and friends to its traditional Christmas Eve Carol Service.

But it will be open from 3pm – 6pm for a candle-lit family promenade on Christmas Eve with its customary decorations and tree, a crib and Christmas music re-creating the wintery intimacy of its traditional Christmas Eve Service.

Families and friends, properly socially distanced with face coverings, will enter by the west door to explore the candle-lit interior and linger to soak up the atmosphere. It is the very essence of an olden-time Christmas, and you leave through the Rodney Chapel with its Rodney family monuments. And do not forget to admire the effigy of the fashionably attired Lady Anne Lake resting in the window of the Rodney Chapel. It is made of alabaster and, if the light is just right, displays an unusual translucency.



Services December 2020 and January 2021

| | Cheddar | Draycott | Rodney Stoke | Zoom |
|--|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 6th December Advent 2 | 10am Holy Communion | 9.30am Holy Communion | 11am Holy Communion | 11.30am Holy Communion |
| 13th December Advent 3 | 10am Morning Prayer | 9.30am Morning Prayer | | 11.30am Morning Prayer |
| 20th December Advent 4 | 10am | 9.30am Holy Communion | 11am Holy Communion | 11.30am Holy Communion 6pm Candle-lit carols |
| 24th December Christmas Eve | 11.30pm Holy Communion | 9pm Holy Communion | 3pm - 6pm Christmas Promenade | |
| 25th December Christmas Day | 8am BCP Communion 10am Holy Communion | 10am Family Service | 9am BCP Communion | 10am Holy Communion |
| Christmas 1 | 10am Benefice Morning Prayer | | | |
| 3rd January Epiphany | 10am Holy Communion | 9.30am Holy Communion | 11am Holy Communion | 11.30am Holy Communion |
| 10th January Epiphany 1 | 10am Morning Prayer | 9.30am Morning Prayer | | 11.30am Morning Prayer |
| 17th January Epiphany 2 | 10am Holy Communion | 9.30am Holy Communion | 11am Holy Communion | 11.30am Holy Communion |
| 24th January Epiphany 3 | 10am Morning Prayer | 9.30am Morning Prayer | 11am Morning Prayer | 11.30am Morning Prayer |
| 31st January Candlemas | 10am Benefice Service | | | 11.30am Holy Communion |

Readings December 2020 and January 2021

| | Psalm | First Reading | Second Reading |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6th December Advent 2 | 85: 8-end | 2 Peter 3: 8-15a | Mark 1: 1-8 |
| 13th December Advent 3 | 126 | 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 | John 1: 6-8, 19-28 |
| 20th December Advent 4 | 89: 1-8 | Romans 16: 25-end | Luke 1: 26-38 |
| 24th December Christmas Eve | 98 | Isaiah 52: 7-10 | John 1: 1-14 |
| 25th December Christmas Day | 98 | Isaiah 52: 7-10 | John 1: 1-14 |
| 27th December Christmas 1 | 148: 7-end | Galatians 4: 4-7 | Luke 2: 15-21 |
| 3rd January Epiphany | 72: 10-15 | Isaiah 60: 1-6 | Matthew 2: 1-12 |
| 10th January Baptism of Christ | 29 | Genesis 1: 1-5 | Mark 1: 4-11 |
| 17th January Epiphany 2 | 139: 1-9 | 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 | John 1: 43-end |
| 24th January Epiphany 3 | 128 | Genesis 14: 17-20 | John 2: 1-11 |
| 31st January Candlemas | 24: 7-end | Malachi 3: 1-5 | Luke 2: 22-40 |

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Funerals:

Our prayers are with those who mourn the death of:

Colette Larkins, Audrey Hill. RIP

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RECTOR

Stuart Burns

Email stuart.burns01@gmail.com

Home phone 01934 743649

Please note: Stuart's home tel number has a call-screening facility to stop nuisance calls; the system asks you to say your name and then press # and wait briefly ; Stuart then hears who it is and allows the call which adds your name so that next time you will go straight through; please bear with this; once added the first time you won't have to be 'processed' again! There is also an answering machine on this number.

ASSISTANT CURATE

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revthea@outlook.com

BENEFICE OFFICE

01934 742535

LAY/LICENSED READER

Dr Chris Green

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Julie Hope 01934 742234

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Treasurer: Dawn Hill

Secretary: Sylvia Hall

Cheddar Village Hall Bookings: Richard Scourse enquiries@cheddarvillagehall.org.uk

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Deanery Synod Reps: Tricia Lumley, Thea Oliver

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