

Dec/Jan 2021/22

No. 207

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

70p



Note from the Editors



Welcome to this festive edition of The Stoker. There are lots of Christmas activities taking place in Stoke Golding and Dadlington for everyone to get involved with. Check out the Dadlington Matters (page 16) and What's on (pages 18-19) to plan your festive activities!



We are really impressed with the talent in our community and are spoilt for choice with a variety of local Christmas cards, including Helen Shipton's design featured on the Stoker cover, and some very classy door wreaths. Find out more on page 9.



We are really proud of Heath from Y6 at St Margaret's School for his trip to a environment summit with the Prime Minister, his story can be found on page 4. We congratulate Finbar who has completed his 42 mile charity walk, see page 11 to find out more.

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the whole Stoker Team

Jane, Steve & Kate

The Stoker Team

Editors: Jane White (01455 212416), Steve Smithers (01455 213798)
Kate Poyser Clark (01455 213744)

Production Team: Rosemary Collier, Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster,
Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix, Sandra Pollard.

Please send articles for the **February** issue of The Stoker **by 15th January** to:

The Editors, 23 Wykin Lane, Stoke Golding.
Email thestoker@gmx.co.uk

If you can submit articles by e-mail or on a memory stick (Microsoft Word) it makes our job much easier, (**500 words maximum** please).

All correspondence, including e-mails, must include your full name, home address and home telephone number.

N.B. All advertising enquiries to Ella Orr - ella42@sky.com

Publication of any articles or letters submitted does not imply approval of, or agreement with, any views and comments contained, and are published without prejudice. Copying of content without our explicit consent is not permitted.

Cover picture: Stoker cover illustration by local artist, Helen Shipton©

A New Sign – A New Future

The Baxter Hall Charity trustees are very proud to show off their new sign. This was unveiled at a special event on 7th November to mark the



start of the hall being under new management. The sign was unveiled by local artist Helen Shipton, who designed the logos for the sign, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Hinckley and Bosworth, Councillor Ted Hollick and Mrs Ann Hollick

The unveiling ceremony followed tea and delicious cakes in the community hall which were enjoyed by everyone who came along. This gave people a chance to see what the hall has to offer and an opportunity to visit the lower hall where they were shown around by playgroup manager, Alison Bates.

Thank you to everyone who has shown support for the hall so far and helped us to reach this milestone. We still have lots to do and exciting plans for the future to ensure The Baxter Hall remains a central, accessible and attractive space for our community to gather.



To the extended team that have supported the Baxter Hall project so far, thank you! - Jane White, Chair of The Baxter Hall Charity

Heath Advises the Prime Minister on Climate Change



Heath, a year six student from St Margaret's School, was given the amazing opportunity to present his ideas for saving the planet to Boris Johnson at a special Climate Change Conference at number 10. The event, on 25th October – a few days before COP 26, was organized by First News Education, an online news channel presented by children for children.



Heath was chosen following a competition, run by First News, which involved presenting questions and solutions to damaging climate change. One of his key suggestions to Boris Johnson was that electric cars should be made cheaper and more affordable for everyone.

The whole of St. Margaret's Primary School community wished Heath good luck as he headed to Downing Street, representing the school. A spokesperson from the school said: "Our children at St. Margaret's are passionate global citizens, wanting to make a difference. Well done Heath - the school and the community are very proud of you."



Nicky Cox, Editor in Chief of First News said:

"The world needs its leaders to take action NOW before it's too late to pull back the Earth from the brink of devastating effects caused by climate change. **We are proud to give children a voice because it is their generation, and those that come after, who will be the most affected.** They need to have a voice in the conversation around actions that must be taken so that they can be agents of their own future."

Heath said he couldn't believe it when he was chosen to go to Downing Street and first of all wondered if it was a joke. He even thought his mind was playing tricks when he met Boris Johnson and that he was really a

good actor with the same voice and clothes! He really enjoyed the experience though and, looking at his photo, seemed to take it all in his stride.

He is obviously concerned about the damage that is being done to our world and as well as reducing the cost of electric cars, believes we could improve our environment if we stop throwing litter on the floor and allowing waste to end up in the sea. He wants the world to be a better place when he is older.

Well done Heath and to your classmates too. You can make a difference with your ideas and actions, which will lead to a brighter, safer and cleaner world for everyone.

Jane White

Ten of a Kind (*Answers on page 25*)

December and January often bring snow so here are ten snow related questions to ponder on.



1. What is the snowman called in the Disney Frozen films?
2. How many lines of reflective symmetry does a snowflake have?
3. Who wrote the children's classic story 'The Snow Queen'?
4. On average, how often do we get a white Christmas in the UK, defined as at least one snowflake observed falling. Is it every 4 years, every 6 years or every 8 years?
5. "Walking in the Air" from the animated film 'The Snowman' was sung by chorister Peter Auty. Which singer and radio and TV presenter re-recorded it three years later after Auty's voice had broken and shot to fame as a result?
6. In which mountain range might you search for a yeti or the abominable snowman?
7. What is the name of the Scottish/Northern Irish rock band who had a number 1 album in 2006 with "Eyes Open"?
8. According to the 1950 song, who has a corncob pipe and a button nose and two eyes made out of coal?
9. The ounce is another name for which member of the cat family found in the mountains of Asia?
10. Where is the nearest indoor snow centre, the first to open in the UK?

St Margaret's Church Update

It's been a busy couple of weeks for the church restoration. A generous individual donation and a grant from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council have allowed new lighting to be installed. The effect is to light up the intricacy of the roof beams into a feature of the church rather than it being hidden by 'interior' gloom. Indeed even on the dull day that I visited the beams and beauty of the roof could be clearly seen. The lighting also has dimmer switches attached should a more intimate atmosphere be required.



A decision has been made on the siting of the baptismal font and this will now move to the South aisle near the lady chapel. An octagonal feature in the ancaster stone floor shows the new siting and the font should be much more prominent and visible within the church. Nearby, forming the border between the new ancaster stone floor and the lady chapel, a number of the original victorian floor tiles (those that could be reused) have been used to make an attractive border with existing gravestones from the church floor.

The cupboards have been reinstalled at the rear of the church and plans are being developed for a porch over the entrance doors. Funding will need to be secured though before the porch can become a reality. It really does seem that this is needed though as the draught without a porch was already noticeable and blowing in 'dead' leaves whenever the doors were open.

Also the painting of the interior walls has begun, it has made a difference already, brightening and cleaning up the previous

deteriorating and water marked wall. In addition works have been completed on the re-siting of the baptismal font towards the front of the church near the Lady Chapel. The base was rebuilt first and then the 'bowl' lifted into place using a lifting frame.



The beginning of November saw the reinstallation of Queen Phillipa on the 4th November, the new carving is

stunning and its great to see her safely back in position.



Ian Baines, Additional photos from Pauline Goodsell and the master stone mason, Allen Necchi.

Obituaries

Ian Croxall

Ian Croxall died peacefully on Oct 30th. He had lived in Stoke Golding for 70 years. Beloved husband of Margaret, devoted dad to Martine and Melissa, doting grandad to Isaac, Genevieve and Magnus, respected father-in-law to Craig, Ian was 79 years old.

For many years, Ian ran a hosiery factory in the village with Margaret; was secretary of Skip's Boys' Club; taught swimming at the primary school pool; and sold innumerable raffle tickets in support of St Margaret's Church!



In a previous life, Ian was a typographic designer for The Hinckley Times, and was an opening fast bowler for many local clubs, including semi-professionally for Leicestershire County Cricket Club.

He was a keen musician (performing and recording professionally in the 60s in The Sugar Machine on guitar and keyboard); supporter of the Hinckley BID Motor Show, which will launch a trophy for the most elegant classic car in his name in 2022.

Ian's family wish to thank everyone who stayed in touch with him and Margaret during his extended stay in rehab and hospital; neighbours Heather and Craig who provided so much support to them both; and to those who visited, called, or sent flowers and cards in the weeks after he died. The outpouring of kind sentiment has been a great comfort. Please direct any donations to The Dorothea Oncology Unit at the George Eliot Hospital, and The Children's Society, via G. Seller 'Independent Funeral Directors', 75 Upper Bond Street, Hinckley, LE10 1RH. Tel: 01455 637457. or online at www.gseller.co.uk/obituaries

Neil Holmes

Neil Holmes, of Dadlington, passed away peacefully on 7th October, 2021, aged 80 years. Beloved husband of Jane, father to Mark and Nicola and doting grandpa to Eva, Olivia and Xavier. Donations in memory of Neil may be made to Alzheimer's Society UK and Cancer Research, c/o G.Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley

The Stoker team send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Ian and Neil.

Stoke Golding Advent Windows

Last year because many other events were cancelled, St Margaret's Church held an event where everyone could get involved and we invited you to take part in a Village Community Advent Calendar. There has been interest in doing it again this year.



For those who weren't involved or are new to the village; the idea is to decorate one of your front windows (has to be visible from the road without entering your property) on a Christmas theme, on a given date between 1st December and Christmas Eve, and leaving it up until 6th January (12th Night).

You will be assigned a date to 'open' (light up) your window and we'll advertise where they are.



To take part, or for more information, please phone me, Revd Patty, on 01455 213346 or email pbailey2011@btinternet.com

Entries need to be received by 25th November so that we have time to make the trail map and deliver it.

Although there are many other Christmas activities this year, it will still be a great way to light up our village and look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth this Christmas.

Advent Blessings to you all. Revd Patty.

If you do take part in the Advent Windows this year, we would be grateful if you could send us a copy of your window so we can create an advent page showcasing your designs in the next edition of The Stoker. You can email them to us at thestoker@gmx.co.uk

Christmas Cards by Helen Shipton



A5 christmas cards featuring this image with white envelopes are now available for £2 each or packs of 6 for £10. Text and illustrated message inside with historic detail about our village added on the back. 100% high quality green materials used. Please purchase from www.helenshipton.com or 07811 882126.

Free local delivery. I will also be selling them, along with my prints of local villages, at the George & Dragon Craft Fair on 2nd December.



Stoke Golding Christmas Cards.

Snowy Church or Church Walk £1.80 each. Top quality High gloss card. Please telephone Bill Shearer 01455 212530 or 07903 866123



Sam Lamb is taking orders for these hand crafted door wreaths made from natural, undyed Shetland wool and embellished with needle felted designs. All handmade so slightly individual. £30 each. Festive sheep, Christmas puddings, Snowman



ALL profits from the sale of these will go to St. Margaret's PTA. Please contact me on s.lamb8@hotmail.com



Stoke Golding Christmas Cards

Cards come with envelopes. Message inside reads 'Merry Christmas'. £2 for one or £5 for pack of three.

Please contact Ray Tunks 07432 514202.

Email: mondo1209@hotmail.com. www.facebook.com/MondoArtShop

Spooky Quiz Night

Wednesday 27th October saw a very welcome return of the George and Dragon's popular monthly charity quiz night, and quizmaster Dave. As it was Halloween week fancy dress was optional and several costumes did not disappoint. There were treats in the form of some fabulously decorated cupcakes for sale too. This



months chosen charity was Children's Cancer. It was great to see some familiar teams and faces after such a long break. Looking forward to seeing a few more hopefully next time!



The November Quiz will be on the 24th November, raising money for Leicestershire Women's Aid, and there will be a Christmas Jumper Quiz on the 22nd December.

Kate Poyser Clark

Thank you from Georgie's Gift.

"The George & Dragon in Stoke Golding hosted a Summer Charity day back in August which saw a great turn out of people enjoying the music, the cake and all the fun activities laid on whilst raising money for charity. The money was split between 3 charities and last week we went to pick up the cheque for a superb £1033.33.

A special thank you to Alex and all the staff who put on a great day and a huge thank you from Georgie's Gift for supporting us. Matt & Paula"



Georgie's Gift is a Charity set up by Matt & Paula Hall, parents to Georgie Hall, who sadly passed away in 2015 to meningitis. To honour her memory the family and local community now help to raise funds for children in need of support, by giving "Georgie's Gifts" to help with the cost of treatment and care.

Finbar's Battlefields and Borderlands Charity Walk

Finbar finished his 42 mile battlefield and borderlands way walk before going back to school this September. He really enjoyed exploring new parts of the countryside and learning to read maps. " My favorite walk was when Mummy and I did walk 6 and 7 joined together (Sutton Cheney to Higham on the Hill). I wanted to raise money for RDA because last year, in lockdown, they had to sell one of their horses. I love riding and want these children to be able to ride too." Finbar said.

So far Finbar has raised £417, including a donation from the sale of the book that accompanies the walk. Eddie and Michael, the authors, presented Finbar with a signed copy as a reward for successfully walking their trail.

The charity, RDA Arden posted this picture and update about Finbar's walk, and how important this money is to them. "A busy session today with lessons and volunteer training. We finished the day by saying a BIG thank you to Finbar aged 6, who achieved his milestone of walking the 42 mile Battlefields and Borderlands Way over the summer holidays.



The money he has raised will significantly help towards care for the horses over the coming months." Lizzie, RDA instructor.

Finbar is still raising money to help look after the horses as we come into winter. All donations would be gratefully



received, please go to [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search Finbar's battlefields and Borderlands way walk. Thank you from finbar and Emily.

Kate Poyser Clark



Thank You From the Parish Council

On behalf of the Parish Council and the village, I would like to thank Jane White and the Baxter Hall committee for their tireless work to save the hall from development.

It has been an uphill battle, against all the odds, but they have formed a Charity and saved the hall as a village asset for at least the next 25 years.

Since achieving this they have decorated and refurbished the hall – see the new sign- and it is ready for hire.

There is still work to be done – it urgently needs a new boiler. But the hall was transferred over with no money from the previous trustees. It is thanks to an anonymous benefactor that they have achieved so much. I'm sure that any donations towards the repairs would be gratefully received.

Many thanks to all who helped

Rachel Terheege

Chair, Stoke Golding Parish Council



Messy Church at STOKE GOLDING METHODIST CHURCH **2nd THURSDAY each month, 5pm – 6.30pm**

We are delighted to have started running Messy Church in the village.

Messy Church is a monthly activity with food, fun and fellowship.

The sessions usually begin with sharing a meal together, then we have fun making crafts or playing games. Although many of the crafts are planned for children, all ages are welcome. There is no need to book, just turn up on the 2nd Thursday each month at 5pm. We will be very pleased to see you. We have an amazing team from Stoke Golding Methodists and St Margaret's Church leading the activities. In December, we plan to have a Messy Nativity at Willows Farm, surrounded by animals and hay!

More details can be found on our Facebook/Meta page;

Stoke Golding Methodist Messy Church

Toilets Twinned at Stoke Golding Village Hall



After a successful fundraising afternoon at the village hall, celebrating its 60th anniversary and The Stoker's 20th anniversary, plus a donation from our first Stoke Arts event this season, we have been able to twin all the toilets at the hall. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Next step, twinning all our taps... For more information about the charity, visit www.toilettwinning.org

Ruth Fisher (on behalf of Stoke Golding Village Hall Management Committee)

Famous Siblings Quiz

1. She married Lord Charles Cavendish, he was one of the stars in *Towering Inferno*, but was mainly known as a Dancer.
2. Name the three Gabor sisters.
3. From *The Scaffold to Wings*.
4. Both of these artists had the surname John.
5. One became President, one was the Attorney General and the other went to Chappaquiddick.
6. He was a team captain in 'Give us a Clue' and danced with his sister in tube stations during the Blitz.
7. 17th December 1903 at Kitty Hawk they really took off.
8. He used to read the news and his brother used his 'little grey cells'.
9. Egghead and comic wordsmith.
10. Queen Victoria had 9 children can you name them?

Answers on page 25



Bob's FocusMy Love of Animals



I have always wanted to pass on my love of animals to my children. To that end one year, I think 1992, I loaded my wife, my two daughters and my son into my pride and joy - a beautiful blue Ford Sierra 2.0 GLS, not quite two years old. Our destination for a fun packed and informative day out was West Midlands Safari Park.

These were the days when you could drive through animal enclosures to get the best views, without bars or wire fencing getting in the way. I have to say I was more than nervous on several occasions when driving through the "Big Game" areas. The scariest moment was when a Giraffe put its whole head through the sunroof and hoovered up whatever treat my wife was eating with a tongue roughly the same size as its head. I breathed a sigh of relief as the animals seemed to get smaller, until we entered a monkey enclosure. As soon as I stopped and applied the handbrake it was like we had dared to venture into a Wild West saloon. The cute little monkeys just stopped and stared, clearly jealous of my pride and joy. A large group approached from behind a tree, I swear one had a chainsaw and another a pickaxe handle, but the one with the lump hammer and tattoos looked particularly menacing!

In seconds they were all over the car, this was an organised crime group for sure. Both windscreen wiper rubbers were stripped from the blades, the miscreant taking them back to the tree obviously to use them to tie up future hostages. Next was the rear rubber glazing strip that held the rear window in place, peeled off the tailgate like a banana skin. The final straw came when the one with the tattoos removed both washer nozzles from the bonnet with his teeth, hand on the washer button. I thought I would give him a drink to reward him - how was I to know he had a liking for washer fluid! Just in the nick of time a ranger came and sounded the retreat enabling me to drive, my now sorry looking pride and joy, out of harm's way.

For some years I managed to avoid AOCGs (Animal Organised Crime Groups) but now find in our lovely village that I have a new menace to contend with, a bunch of hooligans with Mens Rea on their family crest. Noisy little devils with ice blue eyes that pierce your very soul, the chimney sweep bird, known commonly as the jackdaw.



At first, I was mildly amused as they cleaned the moss out of my roof tiles, until it blocked my guttering resulting in Niagara Falls onto my conservatory roof, which is now in need of moss removal itself. Now they have cleared the moss they have started to remove the pointing from my ridge tiles, hurling lumps of mortar downwards. I see them hitching rides on sheep's heads and they pillage the bird table daily.

Hooligans? No not really - mischievous maybe, but they love people and will make eye contact. They are very intelligent and renowned for their devotion to their partners, maybe a nuisance at times but they are still welcome in my garden.

I hope you are enjoying some walks at this lovely time of the year, if so make sure that you utilise all of your senses; kingfishers, great spotted and green woodpeckers can be heard well before you spot them. Only yesterday I spotted two more kingfishers on the Tweed river. When you walk past a wooded area close your eyes and take a few deep breaths, can you smell the rotting leaves and fungi that combine to produce a heady bouquet? Middle of November and I spot a beautiful Brimstone Butterfly and a couple of days ago an Emperor Dragonfly, oh the Redwings and Fieldfares have arrived too.



Well as this is a double issue, I will wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy new year in advance, catch you in 2022.

Colli Bob

Linda and Whimsey Celebrate

Linda and Whimsey celebrated a wonderful dog agility achievement, taking home the Iconix Overall Novice series Champion 2021 in the small Category. This was despite Linda having major dental treatment the day before.

Well done both, from the Stoker Team.





Dadlington Matters



Christmas at Hall Farm, Dadlington



**11th
December
4pm - 7pm**

An outdoor Christmas get together.
Join us for food, drink, carols and
entertainment

In aid of St James's Church

Coffee and Chat

Dadlington Village Hall

*Come for a friendly chat while
enjoying delicious home-made
cakes and a cuppa*

Thursday **2nd** December

10.15 am - 12.15pm



All Welcome

Carol Service

St James' Church
Dadlington
Friday December 17th
7.30pm



To all Dadlington Villagers

Come to the Village Hall on Friday
December 3rd

for the

Christmas Light Switch on.

Bar and mince pies from 6pm,
Lights on at 6.30pm.

Come and meet up with other
villagers for this festive occasion

Momentous Day for Little Explorer's Nursery



Wednesday 1st September 2021 marked a momentous day for our Nursery, Little Explorers, as we celebrated our relocation to fantastic new premises.

Little Explorers Nursery, a term time nursery, is now situated at Lower Hall, Baxter Hall, High Street, in the Heart of Stoke Golding and is ideally situated next to St Margaret's C of E School.

The new site comes with an ideal, secure outdoor area for children to enjoy and explore, and the

opportunities the location of the building affords, allows Little Explorers to fully experience and positively contribute to the local community. Outdoor space is a crucial part of the curriculum and children can now freely access open space which significantly enhances opportunities for teaching and learning at the Nursery.



Owner Alison Bates, says 'We are absolutely delighted to now be making this dream a reality.' With my 3 other settings rated as Outstanding with Ofsted, we are excited to offer fantastic care and education within Stoke Golding.

Alison Bates



Christmas at the George and Dragon

Christmas Craft Fair

Thursday 2nd December
From 5.30pm onwards



With food, mulled wine and hot chocolate in the George and Dragon Marquee.

Carols by Candlelight & Mince Pie competition

Wednesday 15th December
7.30pm - 9.00pm



Join us outside for carols by candlelight, all welcome.

Christmas Charity Quiz

Wear your favourite festive jumper and bring a team of up to 6 people.
22nd December 7.30pm



If you want to enter the contest bring 4 of your best mince pies to the pub to be judged.

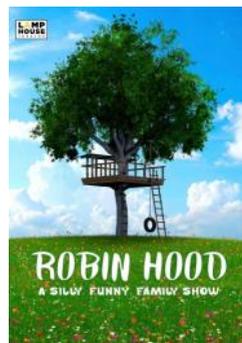
Stoke Golding Village Hall - **Sunday 2nd January 2022 at 2.00pm**

****Robin Hood ****

Join the gallant outlaw Robin Hood and his band of mischievous merry men (and women) in Sherwood Forest this Christmas.

With the help of the brilliant Maid Marion, the gang battles the evil Sheriff of Nottingham and steals from the rich to give to the poor, but can Robin save the forest and everything he holds dear before Prince John takes the crown?

A fun packed, music-filled family show with plenty of laughs. Whether you're 6 or 106 you'll love this exciting, comedy-stacked version of the legendary tale.



"Brilliant! The whole family loved the show. It really is a lovely breath of fresh air to the usual pantomimes." (one of many great reviews)

Running time: 1 hour 30 minutes including 15 minute interval.

Tickets: £12.00 Adult £6.00 Children 12 and under available from:
stokearts@gmail.com or Alan White Tel: 01455 212416



What's On



The St Margaret's Snowman Festival Saturday 4th December 2021

from 10.00am to 4.00pm

Come and see our amazing display of snowmen, and our newly refurbished floor and lighting in St Margaret's Church.

Refreshments, cake and jams for sale in the Baxter Hall.



We look forward to seeing you

If you are able to help on the day or make a cake, please contact Jenny Hirons Tel: 01455 699734, or email jenny@thehirons.com

Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh

Once again the sleigh will be out just before Christmas. Can we please ask that you support us again, as you have done over the previous years.

Thanks for your support.
Sleigh Committee

Wed 22nd Dec.
4.30pm start

Bottom of High St.
Dadlington
Bosworth Manor
Convent Drive
Hinckley Road
Sherwood Road
Hinckley Road
Station Road
Crown Hill
Andrew Close
Top of High Street

Thurs 23rd Dec.
4.30pm start

Roseway
Whitmoors
Main Street
Goldings
Wykin Lane
Little Wykin



Festive Lights Switch On in the Grounds of Park House Thursday 2nd December



Mulled wine served from
6.15pm
Lights switched on at **6.45pm**

**Come and meet Santa and listen to the brass band
Everyone Welcome**

by kind permission of the residents at Park House and thanks to the Charity of Thomas Barton

Locals of Note 4: Dick Turpin – Perhaps?

Were it not for an 1834 novel by Harrison Ainsworth, entitled 'Rockwood', Dick Turpin, the former butcher turned highwayman who was executed for stealing horses in 1739, would have been a small footnote in history. However, Ainsworth's description of Turpin, galloping north: "His blood spins through his veins; winds round his heart; mounts to his brain. Away! Away! He is wild with joy," captured the public's imagination and spawned a multitude of myths that romanticised a man who was, in reality, a brutal, vicious thug. There was no 200-mile ride from London to York on Black Bess - there was probably no Black Bess. And it is unlikely that he visited many of the multitude of public houses that now claim associations with him, the Cock Inn at Sibson being one of those.

So, first the story, which may or may not have some truth to it. It is said that Turpin would operate on Watling Street, now the A5, a possibility given it was the major route to the northwest of the country. However, all of the reported acts of highway robbery attributed to Turpin occurred in or around London. It is also said that Turpin's parents lived just outside Fenny Drayton and that he would often stay with them, supping at the Cock Inn and hiding in its chimney breast if he felt in danger. Quite what would entice his Essex born publican parents to move to a small Leicestershire farming village is difficult to comprehend.

And now the known facts. Turpin, an apprentice butcher, joined a ruthless gang in Essex who initially stole deer from Waltham Forest, Turpin's skills as a butcher helping them to dispose of their ill-gotten gains. The gang then turned to robbery and Turpin was implicated in a number of incidents involving torture, rape and murder. After most of the gang were captured and hanged for their crimes, Dick turned his hand to becoming a highwayman, plying his trade for about three years. In 1737, when visiting a hideaway in Waltham Forest, he was seen by Thomas Morris, one of the keepers. Turpin killed Morris which led to a reward being offered for his capture. He was described in the Gentleman's Magazine as, "about Thirty, by Trade a Butcher, about 5 Feet 9 Inches high, brown

Complexion, very much mark'd with the Small Pox, his Cheek-bones broad, his Face thinner towards the Bottom, his Visage short, pretty upright, and broad about the Shoulders."



As a wanted man, Turpin moved to Lincolnshire where he turned his hand to a less violent criminal venture: stealing horses. When, in 1738, under the assumed name John Palmer, he shot a cockerel in the street and threatened to kill its owner, he was arrested and eventually transferred to York where his handwriting was identified by his old schoolmaster and his true identity was revealed. On 7th April 1737, he mounted the gallows, the executioner ironically being Thomas Hadfield, another convicted highwayman who'd been pardoned. His body was buried but then dug up by grave robbers and sold to a surgeon who was subsequently forced to hand it back for reburial and it now lies in the churchyard of St George's Church, Fishergate, in York - allegedly. A gravestone describes him as, "The Notorious Highwayman and Horse Stealer."

M Dix

Goldings Gin - Ready Next Year



Those of you who know me may have noticed I like my gin. In fact I like it that much that I'm opening my own distillery. So six years after moving to the village, and three years of research and development, a ream of red tape and lots of dreaming and hard work, I am almost ready to bring Stoke Golding its very own gin. I had hoped to be ready in time for a Christmas launch. However a few

technical issues have pushed this back to early 2022.

Dave Tait



The Stoker Kitchen Corner Cookery Book It makes a great Christmas Present!

We still have about 50 cookery books for sale, so if you would like to buy one please ring or message Avis - tel: 07425 164833

They cost £5 each with £2.50 from each sale going to the Little Princess Trust.

The recipes are all really tasty, but not difficult, with lots of handy hints. The fruit cake is easy to make, delicious and can be used as a Christmas cake.

Outdoor Pursuits, Peace Tea and Fireworks!

Last time we reported about the Scouts attending the County Splash Camp and completing their adventure challenge award. We got some fantastic pictures from camp to share with you all.



What a busy term so far! The beavers, cubs, scouts and explorers have all been celebrating Halloween with various themed based activities from making spiders, apple dunking, donuts, chocolate game and fancy dress.

The Beavers have been creatively travelling to Italy,

including making a passport, making pizza and going on a plane. They have also had a bonfire night themed activities with making cake fireworks and rocket magnets.

The Cubs have been learning about the history of scouting and learning new games.

The Scouts and explorers have all been building and racing chariots.



All the scout group have been making poppies some of which were laid at the war memorial and also decorated the railings of the cemetery.

There was a good number of the Scout group turned out for the Remembrance Day event. The group left from the village hall and walked to the war memorial and returned to the village hall for the traditional peace tea.

There were many comments on how well the group behaved, on the lovely handmade poppy crosses and the lovely poppies on the railings. The scouts and explorers helped with the setting up and clearing up of the hall. The peace tea was well attended and the cakes went down well. Several people said what a good idea it was and how it had a sense of community spirit.

So on that positive note, we only have the busy Xmas activities round the corner!

Fiona Shilladay



CASAG News

Alison Ellis, practice manager, says that patients eligible for their COVID boosters can be sent a link to their mobile phone (if they have one) to book directly into the clinic. These will be sent in date order from when they had their second dose. If patients haven't heard from us and it has been 6 months since their 2nd dose they can phone the surgery and book into our clinics in December or telephone 119 to book at a local pharmacy. This time we do not have the resources to send invitation letters or make as many telephone calls.

Alison Ellis is retiring at the end of January 2022. A recruitment process has started to find a replacement manager.

On behalf of CASAG, we thank Alison for all her hard work over the years, especially during the extremely hectic pandemic period. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

Historic Journeys: City of London Churches Part 2

August 23rd would have been my London born grandmother's 131st birthday and I wonder how much she would recognise of the city these days were she to have accompanied me on my quest to visit 51 city churches. At ground level, the street pattern is much the same but looking up, she'd have been amazed by the skyscrapers of steel and glass that pierce the skies. Armed with a helpful map from 'The Friends of the City Churches' and my phone's satnav, I managed to track them all down, although as I strode off to distant outlying buildings, I began to suspect that some of the churches on the list weren't actually in the city. My fears were confirmed on my return home, meaning I'd visited seven additional places that weren't part of the 110 pre-Fire of London establishments. Although one or two of the churches stood in their own grounds, others were squeezed between more modern buildings, their entrances fighting for attention between ubiquitous barber shops and food outlets.

Many of the churches served as mother churches to the various wards of the city and the powerful guilds that grew up in medieval times. In St. Botolph Aldgate, number 23 on my list, six stained glass windows celebrated locals who'd become Lord Mayor. Their occupations were cutler, stationer, clothmaker, spectacle maker, pavior, responsible for maintaining the roads since 1280, and the rather more up to date carman. Continuing the execution theme from my first walk, St. Sepulchre (no. 43), near to the site of the old Newgate prison, had on show the execution bell that the sexton would ring twelve times at midnight outside the cells of those scheduled to be hung at Tyburn the next day – nice! Also on display at the Dutch Church (31) was an exhibition on wood carving and I was furnished with a guide book on entering the building in the mistaken belief that I'd come to peruse the exhibits. Although the Dutch Church wasn't one of the ancient parishes, the original church had been established in 1550 for Protestant refugees.

Discovery of the day was St. Giles Cripplegate (37). The omens weren't great as I entered the modern monstrosity that is the Barbican, but as I turned a corner, there it stood. It was the final resting place for the explorer Martin Frobisher, the writer John Milton and the 16th century mapmaker John Speed whose efforts to discover the grave of Richard III on a visit to Leicester gave rise to the myth that he'd been dug up and thrown in the River Soar. The church was one of a few that I visited that hadn't been rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren. He was responsible for designing 52 of the 70 scheduled for rebuilding after the Great Fire of London in 1666.

His masterpiece is undoubtedly St. Paul's Cathedral which appeared on the skyline at various stages of my walk, but many of his surviving churches lay claim to being his finest. Twelve remain more or less as he created them, two were substantially altered over time and nine had to be rebuilt after the blitz. There are also the ruined towers of a further six.

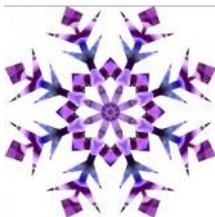
As I reached St. Alban the Martyr, the final church on my list and actually outside the city limits, I'd spent four hours wandering the streets of London, discovering many things I'd not seen before: the site of Dick Whittington's house, the location of the first coffee house and the spot where the first Bethlehem Hospital (the original bedlam) was built. I also stumbled across two gardens laid out on the sites of the now demolished St. Mary Staining and St. John Zachary bringing my total of medieval churches to 53 within the City of London, plus seven additional places of worship, bringing the total to 60. So how, if the City is only a square mile did I end up walking 15 miles?

If you would like to read in more detail about the city churches, my visits to cathedrals, or my memorable experiences as a primary school teacher and headteacher, I have created a website of my musings at <https://historicjourneys12.wixsite.com/home>

M Dix

Answers to 10 of a Kind

1. Olaf
2. 6
3. Hans Christian Andersen
4. Every 6 years
5. Aled Jones
6. The Himalayas
7. Snow Patrol
8. Frosty the Snowman
9. Snow leopard
10. Tamworth



Answers to the Siblings Quiz

1. Fred and Adele Astaire
2. Zsa Zsa, Magda and Eva Gabor
3. Mike McGear and Paul McCartney
4. Augustus and Gwen John
5. John, Robert and Edward (Teddy) Kennedy
6. Lionel and Joyce Blair
7. Orville and Wilbur Wright
8. John and David Suchet
9. Jeremy and Tim Vine
10. Victoria (Vicky), Albert Edward (Bertie), Alice, Alfred. Helena, Louise, Arthur, Leopold and Beatrice.



Church Matters



From St Margaret's and St James's Church

Christmas Letter from our Churches

People sometimes ask why I
celebrate Christmas and I always
say because I want to remember



the birth of Christ.

I am well aware that, in all likelihood, the baby Jesus was born in spring, not December. I also realise that the reason we celebrate it in December would have been to appease the pagan converts who would have been unwilling to relinquish their midwinter celebrations - possibly Saturnalia or the winter solstice - that were a source of joy in grim months.

But, to me, that doesn't matter. Our historical records are not sufficient to pinpoint an exact date (or even year, for that matter!) so, if we want to celebrate, we need a nominal date and 25 December is as good as any other!

Now, don't misunderstand me; I am not saying that there is insufficient evidence to prove Christ existed: on the contrary, there is much documentary evidence that Jesus lived. And that he died. And that he rose again: and much of this comes from non-Christian sources. I am merely saying that there is not enough to pinpoint his date of birth. But why do I want to remember his birth?

Well, we are told in the Bible that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3.16). To me, Christ was a wonderful and most precious gift from a generous God who loves us enough to make the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf: he gave us Jesus to help us better understand Him; to see he was, above all other, a God of love - a message that was becoming lost in all the multitude of laws laid down by the Jewish leaders. And that, through this love, we would be granted everlasting life.

When times are difficult, or stressful, it is good to remember that each and every one of us is loved enough that God would send His son as a sign of his love for us. The ultimate gift which preceded the ultimate sacrifice. Moreover, because of his sacrifice, we have the hope of everlasting life with God.

People bemoan the fact that this message is getting lost in the commercialism of Christmas and I wouldn't necessarily disagree.

However, I do love the fact that it promotes a time of generosity - not only to our friends and family, but to others less fortunate: there are many stories of people's Christmases being saved by the generosity of strangers. To me, the fact that people are empowered by Christmas Spirit (and, maybe the Holy Spirit!) to show their love for their neighbour in this way, makes it all worthwhile; it reassures me that, whilst the message may be buried, it is not yet lost. Whether you will be giving, or receiving, this Christmas, I wish you a time filled with love, peace and goodwill.

God bless, Michelle (*Lay Reader*)

Church of England Services December 2021

ST MARGARETS

5th 10.30am All Age
Snowman Festival
12th 3pm Christingle
19th 10.30am Holy Communion
24th 4pm Crib Service
25th 10am Christmas Day Holy
Communion
26th 10.30am Holy Communion

ST JAMES

5th 9am Morning Prayers
19th 9am Holy Communion
24th 10pm Christmas Eve
Holy Communion

Church of England Services January 2022

ST MARGARETS

2nd 10.30am All Age
16th 10.30am Holy Communion
23rd 10.30am Morning Worship

ST JAMES

2nd 9am Morning Prayer
9th 10.30am Holy Communion
16th 9am Holy Communion

THE METHODIST CHURCH

December Services 2021

5th 10.30 am Mrs Gwen Cole
12th No service
19th 2.30 pm Carol service Revd Patricia Mukorombindo
25th 9.30 am Christmas Day Revd Patricia Mukorombindo
26th No Service

January Services will be on 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10.30am. The 5th Sunday will be a circuit service at 10.30am

Sophie's Beauty Room

We had a lovely and instructive meeting on Tuesday when Sophie Johnson came to tell us all about beauty routines. Sophie has a business in the village and some of our members are her customers.

One of our members, Jill, won the draw to have a facial and Sophie talked us through the procedure while she was doing it.

The stages are basically:

1. Cleanse with gentle upwards movements with a cleansing product, best done a couple of times
2. Clean off the cleansing cream
3. Exfoliate. Sophie used a product with natural seeds in (more companies are changing to natural ingredients for their products
4. Then follow with a moisturiser. Again with gentle upward strokes (If you want to use a face mask do it before moisturising)

Sophie was explaining what she was doing and why all the way through, and then answered lots of questions from the members.

Jill was very happy with her facial .

We all enjoyed the evening and learnt a lot.



Stoke Golding W.I. November Meeting



Our meeting this month started with the AGM, our treasurer Mary went through the financial statement for the year, and we had reports from our secretary Sue and President Jean, flowers and gifts were handed to the officers who worked so hard this very different year.

We then made little individual Christmas trees, led by our speaker Caroline Boulter, she had prepared individual packs with what we would need to make the tree, and we all successfully produced lovely little trees.

We are looking forward to getting back to some normality with a skittles evening, group Carol service and our Christmas Lunch.

Our next meeting is on 21st December, when we will have festive fun and games, a 'bring and share' supper and a secret Santa pass the parcel.

If you would like to join us, we would love to see you. We meet at 7.30 at the village hall.



Kitchen Corner

MELT IN THE MOUTH CHEESY NIBBLES

Ideal for pre-dinner snacks, this recipe makes approximately 40. They can be made the day before and then kept in an air-tight container.

INGREDIENTS

100gms. Cold un-salted butter. Cut into chunks.

100gms. Plain Flour

Pinch of salt & Cayenne Pepper

½ a heaped tsp. Mustard Powder

50gms. Grated Cheddar Cheese

50gms. Grated Parmesan Cheese

1 Beaten Egg

METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 180C 350F or Gas Mark 4.

Place the butter and flour into a food processor together with the salt, cayenne pepper, mustard and cheeses. Process together then pulse in short spurts until the mixture is coming together.

Tip the mixture onto a lightly floured

surface and knead together until well blended and smooth. Wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Lightly flour the surface and GENTLY roll out the pastry to about 2mm thick. Take a small pastry cutter and cut out the biscuits. Lay them on a baking tray lined with non-stick baking parchment about 2cm apart, (you may have to do this in 2 batches.) Carefully brush each biscuit with the beaten egg and sprinkle a little more parmesan on top.

Bake in the oven for 10 minutes (the smell is wonderful). Carefully lift off the tray with a palette knife and place on a rack to cool. Continue with the next batch.

Have a wonderful Christmas,
Avis

Home Made Christmas Puddings For Sale

Avis has nearly sold out of her famous pudding so if you would like to order one please ring her or send a message:
Tel. 07425 164833





The White Swan Opening Hours

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Saturday and Sunday 12noon - 3pm and 6 pm - 11pm

The White Swan Sunday Night Quiz is back!
Check at the pub for dates and details

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