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The Messenger

Published free for Holy Trinity, Cleeve and St Barnabas, Claverham

Issue 402 December 2024

Brrr... A warm welcome to this month's Messenger...

Our doorbell rang on one dark evening at the beginning of November, and as I opened the door I was met by a group of six young people who burst into a chorus of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas!' I was somewhat astounded and told them (very politely) to go away and come back in six weeks time!

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent.- a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The first Advent candle will be lit this Sunday in our churches - Light in our Darkness!

My premature carol singers can now return and get a warmer reception! Do come along to the Christmas celebrations being held at our churches where the welcome will also be warm!.. Details overleaf.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

hosted by
Cleeve & Claverham
Mothers' Union at
Holy Trinity Church,
Main Road, Cleeve
Sunday 8th December
at 4pm

Everyone is welcome - child-friendly service, and a lovely time for adults too!
- a Christingle to take home for everyone
- hot drink and mince pies/cake for all

The ideal way to start preparing for Christmas - come and join in the celebration.

The service is in aid of the Children's Society



Fifty years of music

On November 10th at the service at St Barnabas Robert Rideout was thanked for fifty years of musical service.

Latterly he has been the regular organist. In appreciation of his loyalty, he was given a card signed by the congregation, a garden token and also some flowers for his wife Linda in recognition of her support.

Leonie Allday who took the service presented the gifts to him as the congregation applauded.

Marianne

Services for Claverham -December/January

December

1st Sunday - 1st December -ADVENT SUNDAY
10.00am - Holy Trinity: Shared Parish Service

2nd Sunday - 8th December - ADVENT 2
09.45am - St Barnabas: Shared Parish Communion
04.00pm - Holy Trinity - All Age Christingle Service

3rd Sunday - 15th December -ADVENT 3
10.00am - St Barnabas : - Shared Parish Communion
7.00pm - Holy Trinity: - Carol Service

Wednesday 18th December
1.30pm - Holy Trinity: - Court De Wyck School Carol Service

4th Sunday 22nd December - ADVENT 4
09.45am - Holy Trinity: - Shared Parish Communion
4.00pm - St Barnabas - Village Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve
4.00pm - Bickley - Crib Service - **see details opposite.**
10.00pm - St Barnabas - Holy Communion and Carols
11.30pm - Holy Trinity - Midnight Mass

Wednesdau 25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY
10.00am - Holy Trinity - Christmas Day Communion

5th Sunday - 29th December Christmas 1
10.00am - St Barnabas - Group Communion Service.

January 2025

1st Sunday - 5th January - The Epiphany
10.00am - Holy Trinity - Shared Parish Communion

2nd Sunday 12th January - Baptism of Christ
10.00am - St Barnabas - Shared Parish Communion

3rd Sunday 19th January - Second Sunday of Epiphany
10.00am - Holy Trinity - Morning Worship

4th Sunday - 26th January - Third Sunday of Epiphany
10.00am - St Barnabas - Shared Parish Communion
10.00am - Cleeve Village Hall - Cafe Church.

Weekday Services at Holy Trinity

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness every **Thursday morning** at **09.30** with Bread of Fellowship on 12th December , the 9th and 23rd of January. Everybody welcome to this friendly service.



J.R.R.Tolkien: Fantasy and Reality



After the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Fayre in Cleeve Village Hall it was really lovely to have the contrast of David Mcilroy's talk about the Lord of the Rings the following morning!

David spoke about Tolkien's family, early life and influences and showed us the deeper meaning underlying the stories and characters, which he illustrated with a power point presentation.

I think that everybody there had either read the book or seen the films and the morning really gave us some food for thought. Many thanks to David for a very interesting morning. *Ed*

Carol Services at St Barnabas and Holy Trinity

I never feel that Christmas is really upon us until I have been to at least one Carol Service and sung my favourite Carols!

The first of our Carol Services will be at Holy Trinity at **7pm on Sunday 15th December** and will be the traditional nine lessons and carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies which will be served in the Church Room.



At St Barnabas there will be Village Carols at **4pm the following Sunday, the 22nd December** with the beautiful little church lit by candlelight. Everybody Welcome to either or both of these services!



A CRIB SERVICE WITH A DIFFERENCE!

CHRISTMAS EVE 3.30pm (for 4pm)

You are once again invited to attend Holy Trinity's Crib Service (at Bickley, Main Rd).

Like last year the barn will be lit, however **ADDED** drama this year with a visit from Jack, a reporter from the Jerusalem Times! Sheep and Llamas in the surrounding fields to see and, yes - Marple Mouse is getting involved!

The story of the First Christmas will be told, carols will be sung, and mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies and cake will be served.

All are very welcome.

Bickley's drive opposite Rhodyate Lane (signposted as Bickley Cottage) will be open for pedestrians only.

For details on parking arrangements (or if you require a lift) - contact Elizabeth on 07787781716

Holy Trinity Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who contributed so much to making our 2024 Christmas Fayre our 'best ever'.

Cleeve Village Hall was packed from 11am through until 3pm, with folks from Cleeve, Claverham and beyond enjoying finding great Christmas gifts, great food and great fellowship. Add to that being able to purchase scrumptious cakes, jams and chutney, to win super prizes on the basket, bottle and tombola stalls, along with finding books and bric-a-brac to take home made for a grand day out.



Special mention to Derek for winning the 7lb+ Christmas Cake in the 'Guess the Weight of the Cake' competition!

Also, thanks to those who make the gifts, cakes, lunches etc., the stall holders, the lunch servers, the washer uppers, the clean and tidy uppers, the effervescent Cleeve Guides [and leaders] and everyone who turned up to support the Fayre.

Finally, having never before surpassed £2,000, the grand total raised after expenses was over £2,400 – absolutely amazing!! These funds will go to the project sorting out Holy Trinity's car park problems, which we hope to complete in 2025.

Thinking of others

'Thank you' to the spectacularly generous anonymous parishioner who has given £500 to the Clevedon Foodbank, which will help make Christmas a special time for so many local people.



Claverham News

The next Ladies Guild meeting will be on December 5th when there will be a raffle, mince pies and chat! There is no meeting in January.

The next market in Claverham Village Hall will be on Saturday 21st December from 10 - 12 noon when you can get those last minute Christmas presents!

There will be no Village market in January as the stage will be up for the panto! (Oh yes it will!!) *Jean*



Remembrance Sunday

was observed at both St Barnabas and Holy Trinity where we honoured those who lost their lives in the service of our country. Leonie Allday led the service at St Barnabas and Bishop Alastair Redfern at Holy Trinity where we were very grateful to Jo Roe's bugling skills he learnt in the Boy's Brigade as we gathered round the War Memorial.



Mothers' UNION

After the opening prayers at our meeting on the 19th November we were introduced to our Speaker, Village Agent Maxine Gilman. Maxine works for the West of England Rural Network in partnership with Community Connect. She covers the area of Congresbury, Kewstoke, Hewish & Puxton, Wick St Lawrence, Wrington & Cleeve.

Village Agents offer a free service for those over the age of 50 to give one to one help to access information and to put clients in touch with professional agencies if needed. All help is completely confidential. She can help with a huge number of day to day problems, during a house visit such as filling out official forms for Attendance Allowance, Blue Badge parking permits and Pension Credit. She can also help if a client has communication difficulties with outside agencies and put people in touch with relevant support services. Social isolation is a problem in rural areas and Maxine can suggest suitable Wellness, support and community interest groups or even help to find a cleaner/gardener if necessary. Village agents have a very wide brief and Maxine works for ten hours a week to help her clients navigate an increasingly complex environment, encouraging independence and giving the opportunity to talk about any concerns they may have. She may be contacted on 07967 344766 or e mailed at Maxine.Gilman@curo-group.co.uk



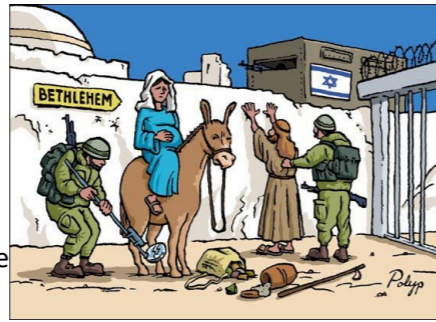
'Tech Ready' is a new **free service** that is aimed at supporting over 50s in North Somerset, to increase their confidence with the use of technology. You, or someone that you know, may need some additional assistance in their home with setting up a new mobile phone, applying online for a bus pass, or help with sending and receiving email. If you know someone who may appreciate some help with their 'tech', then please contact Will Marcombe - will@wern.org.uk for further information. Tel 07787 358982

Our next meeting, the last of 2024 will be our Christmas Lunch at Bickley on the **10th December**. Cost £7.50 Food will be provided, Carols sung and we are all looking forward to being together. Many thanks in advance to Elizabeth and David for their hospitality.

BETHLEHEM – YESTERDAY & TODAY

I have just returned from another visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in connection with the Hope Christian Trust, a charity which Janet and I voluntarily run to serve and encourage communities in both the West Bank and Gaza.

I travelled extensively in the land visiting friends and supporting ministries in which we are involved. Gaza of course was out of bounds although I went to the border as near as the Israeli Army allowed and could clearly see in the distance the terrible effects and damage of the war with smoke rising from attacks which we could hear.



Safety in Israel is very uncertain and rockets hit Tel Aviv airport and areas in the north of Israel coming from Hezbollah in Lebanon whilst I was in the land, also rockets from Hamas in southern Israel the day after our visit to the area. Thank you to those who prayed for God's protection and for my safety.

But what about Bethlehem? A city still under occupation, not the Romans now but Israel 2,000 years later with all the pressures that brings. That means limits on travel for Bethlehemites. Checkpoints surround the city and few have permits to move outside.

Israel has stopped their employment of Palestinians in Israel ensuring great hardship for many families. Add to this the lack of tourism – all the hotels are closed, there is plenty of “room in the inn!” There is also no one to buy the olive wood products for which Bethlehem is famous. Fear fills many as there are frequent raids by Israeli forces particularly in Bethlehem's three refugee camps. Many families fear for the future of their young people and I talked with many who are thinking of emigrating so denuding the place of Jesus' birth of its Christian community.

I felt the sadness and the frustration of my friends and indeed the whole community. And the future? The extreme right wing Israeli government and the settlers have already begun plans for further occupation and the complete take over of Palestinian land. The prospect is bleak, the outlook uncertain and hope is in short supply. Christians will celebrate the birth of Jesus in their churches this Christmas but the community will not celebrate, there will be no lights and singing nor a tree in Manager Square.

In the Gospel story of Bethlehem 2000 years ago the shepherds were directed by the angels to the birth of Jesus who was to bring peace and good will to the world. They returned to their sheep “glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen” (Luke 2.8-20).

Let us be encouraged and have hope for Jesus has come and is with us now in the troubles, anxieties and difficulties of our lives and he can bring us peace and joy as we pray and worship day by day.

Will you pray that this too will be the experience of the people of Bethlehem and the rest of the Holy Land this Christmas time.

Rev John Angle

Thanks from Libby

WOW! Where did all those bags come from?



Well you know, because the outpouring of love to the people of Ukraine landed at No 32 on Thursday evening from our generous Villagers and those folk nearby.

Andy was clearly thrilled and had to return on Saturday to collect all the Tools and extra bags that didn't quite make the Thursday evening collection.....his car was filled to the gunnels.

You'll be very happy to know I'm sure that by Sunday everything donated was down in Sussex for the next venture.

Church weekly Giving Envelopes

We use fewer weekly giving envelopes than in the past, as standing orders become more convenient for many parishioners and, for most of the last few years, I have been recycling old envelopes. I thought I had run out, but parishioners keep finding old unused envelopes.

However, I think this year will be the last time I will be recycling for a while – I have scrapped together enough envelopes for our weekly givers in 2025, thus saving around £60, but it looks like we will be purchasing envelopes for 2026!

Nonetheless I will still accept any old envelopes that suddenly appear from nowhere in your cupboards/drawers etc. thank you.

The oldest unused envelope that I have recycled this year originated in 2005!!

Dave

Yatton History Society

On **Tuesday December 3rd** there will be a talk by Philip Ashford on Steep Holm 1300-1830 7 30pm Yatton Methodist Church BS49 4DW.

On **Tuesday January 7th by Zoom only**

Yatton Local History Society talk by Terry Ransome on British Schools

Contact yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com

No one hangs about. The last 40 footer went to Kryvyi in central Ukraine near the front line....between Kherson and Dnipro.

Andy got word at the weekend that they are always in need of warm clothing and bedding but NEW on the list this time are:

-

CANDLES.....even bits of candles which they melt down to make “trench” candles.... unfragranced please.....as perfume may cause headaches and give away a trench position.

MICROWAVE OVENS

POTS AND PANS

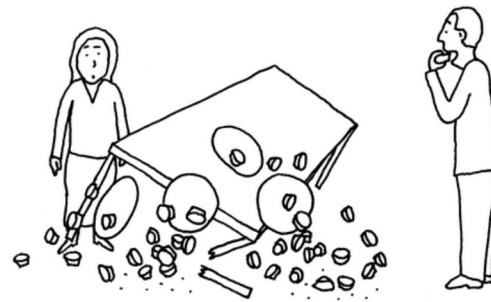
CUTLERY

My thanks once again to everyone. I'll be in touch once I have enough “promises” to advise of next Collection Date. *Libby*

Holy Trinity Cleaning Rota

Jenny Haworth	December 8th
Jen Lankester	December 15th
June Richards	December 22nd
Sarah Cush Nick Cush	December 29th
Andrea Stoddart Lin Mortimer	January 5th 2025
Enid Pring Ron Pring	January 12 th

Hazards of Holy Trinity hospitality!



TABLES BUCKLING UNDER SHEER WEIGHT OF MINCE PIES

Thank you - for your contributions to this month's Messenger and for everything that you have sent me during 2024.

A very happy Christmas to all Readers and good health and happiness in 2025. As Tiny Tim from the Christmas Carol would say - 'God bless us Every One!'

Articles for the January edition should be with me by Wednesday **8th January 2025**.

They can be e-mailed to carole.perrott@gmx.com,

given to me at Church or put through the door of 15 Chestnut Drive, Claverham.

Ed



Daft jokes -



Found on Facebook

Ron's last joke of 2024!

I asked wify which of my attributes she loved best, my good looks or my body. She swiftly responded " your sense of humour"
Look forward to more in 2025 Ron. (I think!)

Useful Church Contacts

Team Office	Mon-Fri 09.30-11.30	.....	01934 832184
Assistant Priest	Revd John Angle	.....	07970 968652
Deputy Wardens	Dave & Lin Mortimer	.....	01934 838515
	Elizabeth Vaughan	.....	07787 781716
	Gill Roe	.....	01934 832917
Safeguarding Officer	Jeannie Osmond	.....	01934 832421
Website	.....		www.yattonchurches.org
Facebook			facebook.com/Cleeve-and-Claverham-Messenger