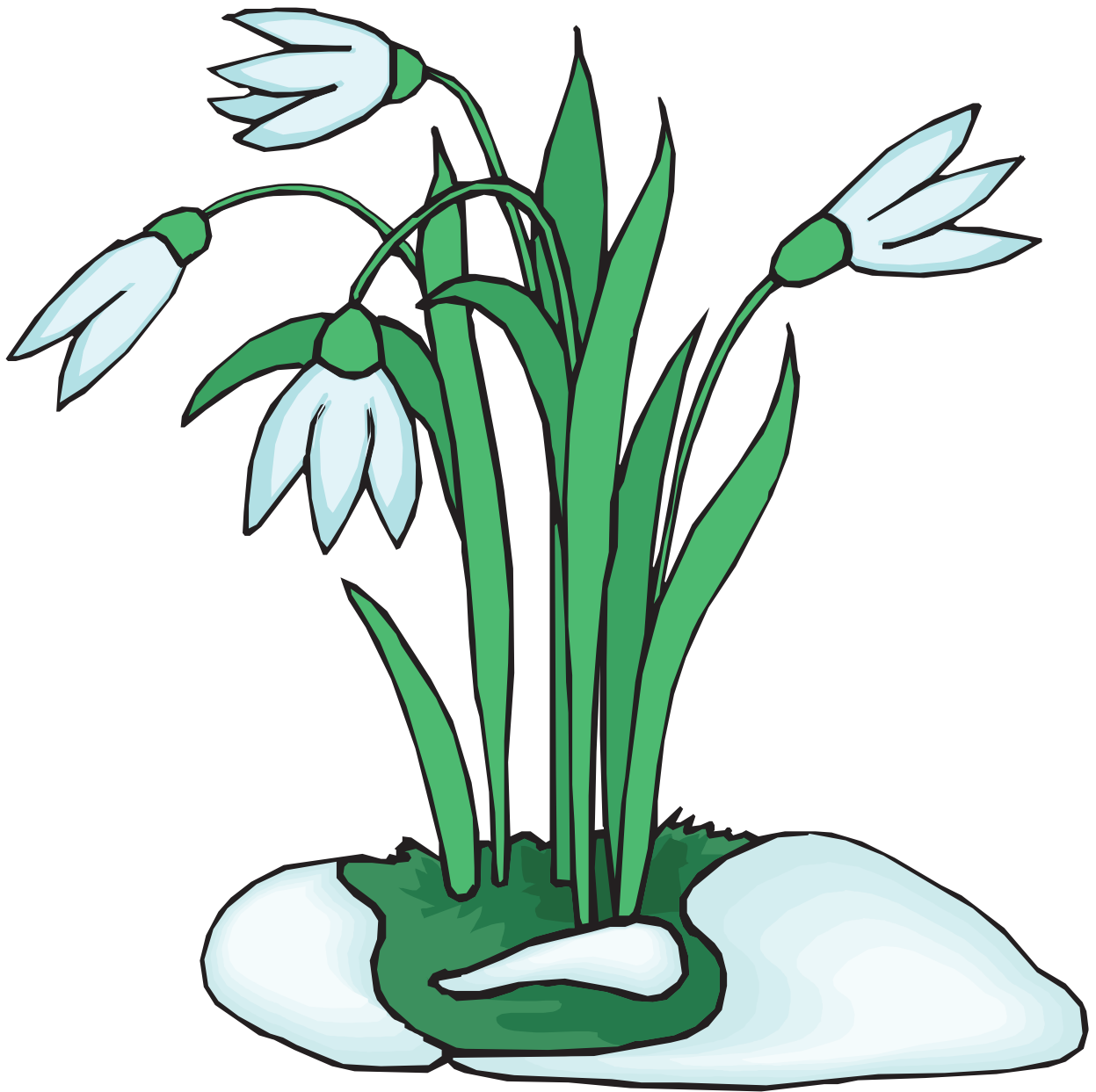


Withington News



February 2014

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February 2014

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Dear Readers,

I wish you a belated Happy New Year from the Withington News. I hope that you all enjoyed the extended holiday and that you are now ready and able to face 2014. with a renewed appetite for work (and pleasure)!

I gather the weather was pretty appalling here. I personally wasn't around to experience it, but did follow the news items from afar. Such a tragedy for those poor people all over the country who have experienced severe flooding, some of them more than once.

I wonder where the winter has gone? I mustn't write too soon as fate has a habit of directly contradicting me when I write about the weather, so perhaps it would sound better if I said what a mild winter it is so far!

The fields behind me, and of course elsewhere, are totally waterlogged and in some places are more like lakes. Is this how it's going to be from now on? It is good to read that Sheila (Westhide – next column) is so optimistic. The signs of spring are there, but there's a long way to go yet!

Following a recent death in the family, my wife and I decided to abandon 50 years of family tradition by going on a Christmas cruise to the Canary Islands. How was I to know that we would weather 4 days at sea in the Bay of Biscay and beyond, in storm force winds, both on the way out and even more so on our return? Luckily it was a large ship (Queen Victoria) which coped very well with what the weather threw at her; her passengers however were not so lucky. Perhaps we should have stayed at home and celebrated Christmas in Westhide's lovely little church.

I hope that 2014 turns out to be a happy year for all of you and that the rest of the winter will not be too unkind.

Bryan Davies / Editor

News from Westhide

The New Year began with torrential storms; gigantic waves lashed our western coasts, floods and power cuts brought misery and chaos to many parts of the country, but in Westhide we were lucky – just bigger puddles and potholes than usual.

Many thanks to all who came to decorate the church for Christmas; to the person who brought the tree, to those who supplied greenery and berries and to those who lit the candles, all 64 of them.

About 60 people came to enjoy singing all the old familiar carols and to find peace and quiet prayerfulness midst the frenzy and preparations for Christmas. In between the carols, families, in turn, unfolded to us the story of the nativity.

Thanks to our musicians and thanks also for all the mince pies and refreshments that appeared at the back of the church – not to mention the mulled wine.

A stalwart troupe of carollers braved the elements on Christmas Eve to bring joy, merriment and Christmas cheer to the 12 houses that they visited.

Christmas Day was wondrously mild. There was a goof turnout for the group service held at Westhide, taken by both Jane and Anne.

We have at long last permission to move the pulpit and to extend the chancel steps. Geoff Williams will be starting on this work shortly.

A post-Christmas Westhide party brought us all together under the Scotcher's generous roof for a really enjoyable evening – a fitting finale to our Christmas celebrations. Thank you Clare, Steve and the boys.

Snowdrops are coming up, the days are getting longer, spring is on the way!

Happy New Year!

Sheila

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Mrs. Liliy Banks

Just before Christmas I received a telephone call from John Banks in Blackpool telling me that his mother Mrs. Banks had passed away a few days earlier.

Many of you who were children at the school at that time will remember Mrs. Banks as the school cleaner in the old Withington School during my time there as Head.

She had been cleaner / caretaker there for years before my time and continued to work there long after I left.

Quiet and hard working she was a great asset to any Headteacher taking over the school as there was little she didn't know about everyday life there and indeed in Withington.

She lived in Southbank, but recently had moved to live in a care home.

I shall always remember her with affection and as a truly valued member of the school staff at that time.

I'm sure I write for many of you when I convey my condolences to the family. May she now rest in peace.

Ed.

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Weight Watchers will meet at 7p.m. next Wednesday in the church lounge. Please use large double-door at the side entrance.

Thursday at 10a.m. there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers' Club. All those wishing to become Little Mothers are welcome to meet our new Rector in the rectory...

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Yesteryear continued.....

THE ROCKET

Sometimes I compare the days of my youth with the activities of the youth of today, who are largely, but not totally, digitally influenced and occupied; the most we could hope for in my day, being a radio or a record player. Consequently we sought our entertainment out of doors. Luckily, living as I did in a village described by Dylan Thomas, the Welsh poet, as “Built on the edge of a cliff” on the shores of Cardigan Bay, opportunities for outdoor activities were abundant.

The village usually had a fairly temperate climate, with the more severe weather affecting areas further inland, but this did not stop us having some snow each winter and in some years we experienced heavy downfalls. Of course snow meant sledging, but sledging sites in the village were rather scarce. My friends and I had one site in mind which appeared to have been overlooked by other youngsters – The Blackberry Field.

To use this site, we had to climb the steep, narrow, precarious path to the top of the local cliff overlooking the village, (Pengraig), then scale the fence into a large field which descended in a steep slope for about 300 yards, ending in a nasty hedge of barbed wire and blackberry bushes, hence the name, ‘The Blackberry Field’, where in the springtime one could wander and admire the wild cliff-top flowers to the constant song of the skylark and in September fill containers with large, glossy, juicy blackberries.

Now that we, (my friends and I), had a site available, we next needed a sledge or sledges. We all possessed old sledges which we had used in previous year, but this particular year we thought we would build a ‘super sledge’. After some discussion, we decided to build a

sledge large enough to carry all six of us. First of all we had to find the timber so we decided to trudge our way to a beach about three miles away over the cliff tops and down a rather difficult path to access this beach. Even for us as healthy, agile, young lads it was hard going, but we knew we would find the driftwood we required on that beach. There it was in abundance, sometimes pieces which were over eight feet in length, usually timber washed overboard from ships in the Irish Sea (It was wartime).

Having found the timber we needed, we tied it all together with rope (we had come prepared) and other bits of rope found on the beach and then started on the journey home. This meant scaling the cliff on a very narrow, steep and rocky path, to a height of about 100 feet with the timber in tow until we reached the cliff top path. From there we trekked the three miles home and, totally exhausted, deposited the timber in my back garden.

The following day my friends arrived armed to the teeth with saws, hammers, large nails and so on (I still don’t know where they acquired them) and we started on the construction of this monster sledge.

After a few days the sledge was completed so we now waited for the forecasted snow to arrive which it did soon after. A moderate fall of snow ensured that soon we could test our newly constructed transport – named “The Rocket”. The excitement was tangible as we dragged our sledge up the steep, footpath to the cliff top and then into the field now covered with a mantle of freshly fallen snow. We decided that rather than just hopping on the sledge it would be sensible to do short runs and practise a way of evacuating the sledge before it ploughed into the brambles at the bottom of the field. This was essential as we had learned from previous years through the experiences of others, that failure to roll

off the sledge before reaching the bottom of a steep hill, could be catastrophic.

On the short runs all six of us managed to roll off without any injury, but of course ended up wrapped in a blanket of snow and sometimes wet through, but all this didn't seem to matter then. The long run from the top of the field all the way to the bottom was a slightly different matter. What we hadn't anticipated was the sheer speed the Rocket would reach when doing the long run. Not just that, but we had badly miscalculated the momentum of our rolling bodies on leaving the sledge.

The word that springs to mind is **CARNAGE**. Such was our speed near the bottom that on abandoning our sledge, most of us hit the hedge before the sledge did, some of us ploughing through the brambles and barbed wire, while others collided badly as we rolled off. The sledge itself shot straight through the hedge and barbed wire fence and ended up balancing nose down in someone's garden, perilously close to a house behind the bramble bushes.

Covered in scratches, bruises, blood and some fairly deep cuts and with some of our clothing torn practically to shreds, we stealthily recovered our speedster, which now was in a state of great disrepair, in other words, badly damaged. Slowly and rather dejectedly we dragged it back up to the top of the hill in silence, mopping blood and dirt from our clothes and bodies and wondering what we would tell our parents when we got home that day. I know that some of us decided not to go home until dark, when hopefully they could creep up to bed and hide all until the following day. Even then a hasty breakfast on one's own and going straight out to play, could defer any disciplinary action from parents for some time.

Carefully and painfully we brought the sledge back down the cliff top path to my back garden where it was left until the following day, our motley crew too shattered to even care.

The initial enthusiasm shown when we started the project had somehow waned, with some of the lads making excuses not to come again (understandably so). The sledge however, was repaired and put to further use both that year and for the following couple of years, but the disaster of our maiden trip had been a severe blow and the initial enthusiasm all but disappeared. Two of us, Dai Evans and myself, eventually, after many trial runs, developed the knack of abandoning the sledge at high speed until we had it off to a fine art, learning to eject much earlier in the run and letting the sledge career away on its own. Surprisingly this worked well with little damage to the sledge or ourselves.

Sadly the passing years saw the demise of our wonderful sledge as indeed they did my friend Dai (David) who passed away at the early age of 62 years having forged a career for himself as a consultant surgeon on a kidney transplant team in Cambridge.

The Rocket itself ended up as firewood in my mother's kitchen keeping us warm through several winters; however, the memories linger on.

Ed.



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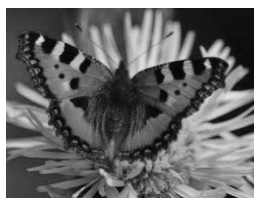
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Saint Peter's Church, Withington – February Flower Rota

SUNDAYS

2nd. February Kay Davies
9th. February Ruth Hewison
16th. February Ruth Hewison
23rd. February Lyn Dodds
2nd. March Lyn Dodds



BARTESTREE CROSS GROUP OF PARISHES

SERVICE ROTA—February/March 2014

	Dormington	Lugwardine	Westhide	Weston Beggard	Withington
Sunday 2 nd February	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Holy Communion		11.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 9 th		9.30 am Family Service	11.00 Family Communion		8.30 Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th	11.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Holy Communion		3.30 pm Evensong	9.30 am Family Service
Sunday 23 rd		9.30 am Morning Prayer	4.30 pm Evensong		9.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 2 nd March	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Holy Communion		11.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 5 th March		7.00 pm Ash Wednesday Communion			
Sunday 9 th		9.30 am Family Service	11.00 Family Communion		8.30 Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th	11.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Holy Communion		3.30 pm Evensong	9.30 am Family Service
Sunday 23 rd		9.30 am Morning Prayer	4.30 pm Evensong		9.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 30 th	10.00 Mothering Sunday Service				
Sunday 6 th April	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Holy Communion		11.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Morning Prayer

Midweek Communion Wednesdays 10.00. The Vicarage, Lugwardine. All Welcome

Letter from Australia

A special moment on the beach last night. We had just finished body-boarding when a man came up to us and asked if he could borrow our board and flippers. His name was Kevin and he wanted to join surfers out at the back as they were about to scatter his son Zac's ashes, who at the age of 19 years had been killed by a shark a few weeks earlier. Of course we obliged and then watched a very emotional event.

As the dad got there, a huge cheer let out from the beach followed by a crowd of surfers who jumped into the water to surf as the sun set. What this poor man was going through must have been dreadful, but he came back ashore with a beaming smile saying that it was a wonderful moment and that his son would have been happy with that.

Yes, we shed a tear on the beach watching last night and vowed to live every day to the full.

Ed.



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Dear Friends

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. I also want to thank all of you who helped in any way with the festivities in our churches – cleaning, decorating, providing refreshments, reading, singing, ringing bells – many thanks.

I am happy to report that we now have our own website www.bartestreecross.org which is very exciting, many thanks to Melanie Denning who put an enormous amount of work into it. As it is still in its infancy we are still feeling our way with regards to what people would like to see on it and so would welcome comments and suggestions. We also need lots of photographs of our churches and so we are running a **photography competition**. The photos need to be landscape rather than portrait and can be of any aspect of the church building and church life. The closing date for entries is 28th February after which they will be judged by a professional photographer and a modest prize awarded. So get your cameras ready over the next few months and see what lovely images you can capture (you can also enter any photos that you already have).

If you want to send pictures or comments then please send them to either bartestreecrosschurches@btinternet.com or melanie.deeprise@btinternet.com.

Best Wishes

Jane



**Thursday 27th February
3.30—5.30**

***Find out more about
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**Messy Team Co-ordinators
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Ruth Hewison - 01432 850074
Preb Jane Davies - 01432 850244**

Finding God on a Smartphone, Tablet, or even a PC

A talk with Graham Bennett about apps and websites that provide access to bible readings or daily services that can be read directly on the smartphone, tablet or PC.

**Thursday 27 February
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Benefice Singing Group



We will be starting rehearsals on The First Wednesday of each month, commencing on 5th. February at 7.30p.m. at Dormington Church. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled in when needed, but the monthly pattern will continue. All are welcome to join us – whatever your ability, as long as you enjoy singing.

We will be looking at some songs which may fit with the Lent services, then on to an Easter theme. If you have any favourites or suggestions for things you would like to sing, then do bring them along – we can always find the music!

Looking forward to seeing you. Do get in touch if you need a lift.

Sheila Thackwray (851077)

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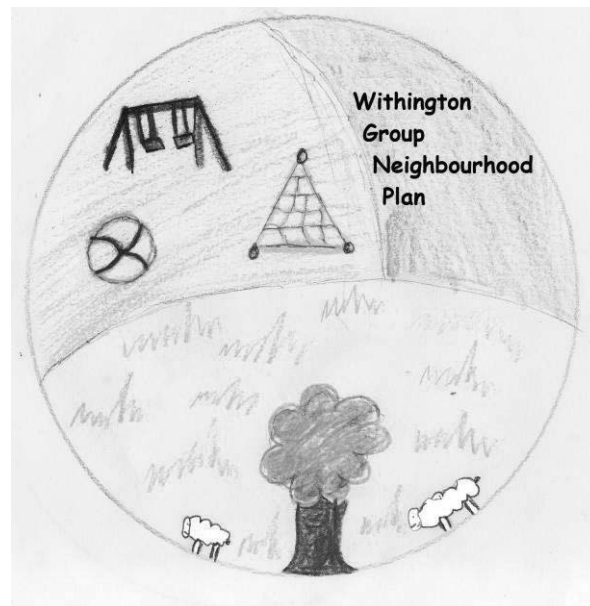
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Withington Group Neighbourhood Plan.

“Your Village, Your Plan, Your Future”

January was a busy month for people involved in the Neighbourhood Plan. Prior to the New Year we heard that we had received funding for our open sessions and the questionnaire that will be created later this year. We will also be presenting the prize to the winner of our logo competition. The winning logo can be seen below.



In January we hosted six sessions. Hopefully you managed to attend one of them to give your views on what you would like to see in the Neighbourhood Plan. If you missed them you still have an opportunity to give your views by logging on to Facebook and adding your views to the <https://www.facebook.com/WithingtonGroupNeighbourhoodPlan> page or contact one of the people below via email or phone to pass on your views.

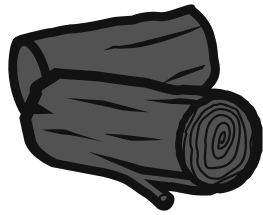
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Jonathan Beech. email: jonathandbeech@hotmail.co.uk or 07425 158191

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Rambling from the Rectory

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque hanging on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered in names, and seemed to fascinate the seven year old. "All those names," he said to the minister, "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM EVERYONE AT WITHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We would like to wish the local community and all our wonderful families a Happy New Year. 2014 has got off to a flying start in school, the children have all returned refreshed and ready to learn.

Foundation Nativity

The schools youngest children shone in this year's performance of the Christmas Nativity. They made both us and their families very proud.



End of year celebrations

Our Christmas party, Christmas dinner and Special Assembly were all held at the village hall this year. The children had great fun celebrating somewhere different, a big thankyou to the village hall for allowing us to hold these events there.

What is happening this year at Withington.....

This term is already turning out to be a very busy one already. After school clubs include;

- Tag Rugby
- Football
- Cross County Running
- Glee Club
- Drama Club

We are also planning to take the children on some magical trips this term to link in with their topics. This week the Reception children are off to Queenswood to hunt for some of Percy the Park Keepers friends!

The PTA also have lots of wonderful events planned, so keep your eyes peeled for more details coming soon.

"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."

— George Bernard Shaw

Little Fingers Play Session

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St Peter's Church, Withington – Special Services & Fund Raising 2013

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St. Peter's Church, Withington, Herefordshire

Quiz Night.....	Saturday 15th March
Lent Lunch.....	Wednesday 19th March
Whist Drive.....	Thursday 27th March
John Sparry & his Band (Music & Humour).....	Saturday 29th March
Whist Drive.....	Thursday 29th May
Garden Party & Auction.....	Sunday 20th July
Songs from the Shows - HMTC.....	Saturday TBA
Whist Drive.....	Thursday 31st July
Churches Festival (<i>incorporating Ride & Stride</i>)....	13th September
Whist Drive.....	Thursday 25th September
MacMillan Coffee Morning.....	Friday 26th September
Harvest Services.....	TBA October
Films & Food.....	Sat 11th October TBA
Quiz Night.....	Sat November TBA
Whist Drive.....	Thursday 27th November
Christingle Service.....	Sunday ? December
Carol Service.....	TBA December



For extra information, phone Kevin/Ruth on 850074, Bob/ Gwen on 850840, Margaret on 850448

Muheza Coffee Morning

By the time this magazine is published, we will have held a coffee morning to raise funds towards the training fees of a nurse in Muheza, Tanzania. As a Group Benefice, we undertake to cover the complete annual fees for a named individual's training. And for Withington's share of this, we have been holding a yearly coffee morning for the last several years and have helped several impoverished students to become nurses.



Messy Church Thursday 27th February

In the Village Hall, from 3.30 – 5.30

Theme.....Noah

We will be pleased to welcome new children of up to top Primary age, with their adult accompanying them, and of course to welcome back our old friends.

Advance Notice

***** **QUIZ NIGHT 15th March** *****

*** **JOHN SPARRY + Jazz + humour 29 March** ***

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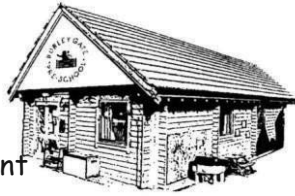


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St Peter's Church

Hereford Food Larder

Thank you to everyone who is supporting the food collection in the church. It is good to see new faces visiting the church bringing tins and packets of food, toiletries and other essential items for those finding themselves in the position of not being able to cope financially.

The church is open from 10am to 4pm every day and the collection box is positioned to the left of the entrance. Please keep the items coming they are much appreciated. All items donated are taken to the main collection point every 2 or 3 weeks in Aubrey Street Hereford.

Church reordering

As many of you will know a small group of parishioners with Jane our Rector are in the early stages of reordering the church mainly to install a disabled friendly lavatory and kitchen. Anyone attending family baptisms, funerals or weddings will know how embarrassing it is currently to be arrive at the church only to discover that there are no facilities available.

If you would like to know more or think you might like to be involved in the project, whether an attendee of the church or not, please contact Marcia Hopkins 850933



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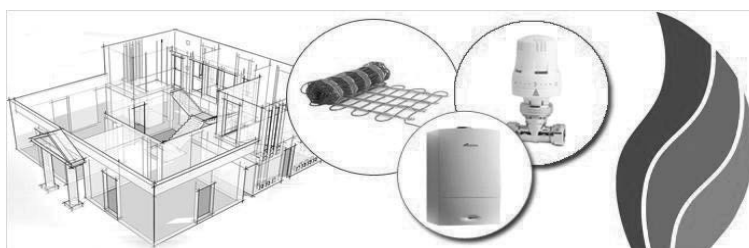
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PRESTON WYNNE NEWS FEBRUARY 2014

Hello again everyone, and a belated Happy New Year to you all.

It seems a long while ago now but the Christmas Lunch held here in Preston Wynne on 15th December was great.

success. Thank you Father Christmas for making it special with brilliant presents for the children who visited you in your Grotto and thanks to all who helped with the meal which was indeed delicious! Friends who came over from Bromyard said they just didn't know how we managed to produce such a wonderful meal for so many. Ah well! Practice makes perfect eh? There is another in the offing too **BURNS NIGHT SUPPER** which will be on 1st Feb but probably this edition of Withy News will be out too late for that.....

Also on a Christmassy note a lovely Service of carols and readings was held in the Village Hall on 22nd December followed by refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies.

Church News

February 9th Family Service 3.00 pm t.b.c
23rd H.C. 9.30 am

The last draw for the 100 Club took place at the Christmas lunch, lucky winners were:

1st £50 No. 99 Mrs Robyn Dent
2nd £25 24 Mr Iain Whitehouse
3rd £12.50 43 Mr Ben Simpkin

PLEASE NOTE THAT SUBS ARE NOW DUE FOR 2014 THEY ARE STILL AT £10 FOR THE YEAR – BARGAIN ! PLEASE LET TRICIA HAVE YOURS ASAP SO THAT YOUR NUMBER WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SPRING DRAW. THANK YOU

A Big Breakfast was served in the Hall on 12th January for Church funds, all who attended enjoyed the morning and it was mooted this become a regular event say, once a month so keep an eye open for the board on the corner.

Hall News

A TABLE SALE ON 15TH FEBRUARY IN PRESTON WYNNE VILLAGE HALL 11 AM – 2 PM

Tables will be £5 so if you would like to take a “site” please contact Pat on 820648. Light lunches will be available so it should be a good sociable event.

Prize Bingo on Tuesday 18th February in the Hall eyes down 8. pm all very welcome

Next some birthday celebrations to report, congratulations to Annabel Dent on your 21st birthday, and also to Vanessa Hargest who has just gone to Finland with sister-in-law Cheryl Ford to see the Northern Lights as part of her birthday treat following a great party in the Hall on New Years Eve.

Finally we wish Shelley Ford a speedy recovery after a spell in hospital.
See you next month,

Love Hilary and Tricia

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JOTTINGS FROM TOWN

To our friends in Westhide,

When Geoff and I left Westhide at the autumn of 2012 our friends in Westhide gave us a very generous gift of garden vouchers to help us establish a garden in our new home. I thought that you might like to know that the vouchers have been put to good use. The garden had been rather neglected for several years but we now have gardens that, if not finished are at least a work in progress.

When we arrived the front garden was the usual patch of grass with narrow borders that had some rather tired old plants and a lot of weed. We now have wide borders and we have cut 2 island beds into the lawn and I have planted shrubs, roses, perennials, clematis and bulbs. Over the next few years I will add to the planting but the outline of this garden is done.



The back garden has the potential to be a very pretty little garden. It was dominated by an ugly old shed which stood on an excuse of a stone terrace. The shed has gone (*hooray !!*) and the terrace will be “upgraded” as soon as we can get around to it. Access to the garden was hindered by a low wall with an ‘excuse for a flower border’ running along its length, which meant that you had to walk along the side of the house before you could get into the garden. The wall has been lowered and the border replaced by grass so that when you come out of the French windows you can step straight up onto the lawn. There were only a few plants that worth trying to save. These I have either moved or tried to tame (like the wisteria which was climbing all over our neighbour’s garden). New beds have been cut and I have started to plant these. Geoff has built a couple of wooden obelisks which now have clematis growing up them and there are roses (some which came with me from Westhide) shrubs and a tree .

So what did I spend your gift on? Well the tree in the back garden is a **Malus Toringo ‘Scarlett’** which is a lovely crab apple with year round interest and is known to us as the “**Westhide Tree**”. I have also bought a **Sambucus Black Beauty** which is an ornamental elder with dark red foliage, and alongside this I have planted one of my favourite roses **Morning Mist** which has a large single salmon pink flower. I have also planted the rose, **Kew Gardens**, which has a single white flower. Thank you all for these plants which I will treasure and every time I tend them it will remind me of my lovely friends. If any of you want to call and check on the progress we would love to see you, if the sun is shining we could even take tea or coffee in the garden although I will probably bore you to death with talking about future plans for it.



Jan

THE ELIZABETH BYWORTH CHARITY

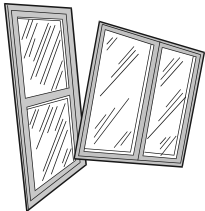
The trustees of the above charity will meet again in March. Young persons (under the age of 25 yrs.), students and school children who live in Withington, Westhide, Whitestone, Nunnington, or Eau Withington, or whose parents reside in these areas, are invited to apply for grants for educational purposes such as courses, books, equipment, uniforms etc.

Those who wish to apply for grants for educational visits, please ensure that the visit takes place AFTER the above DATE.

*All applications to be made in writing to the clerk, Bryan Davies, at Swn y Gwynt,
Duke Street, Withington, Hereford. HR1 3QD*

*Please ensure that your application contains your
Date of birth and your telephone number.*

If in doubt, ring the clerk on 01432 850672



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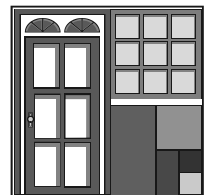
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