



Withington Parish Magazine

November - December 2015

Issue 7



Merry Christmas!

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Introduction

Dear All,

Welcome to the November/December edition of the magazine; I can hardly believe that it was a year ago that I took on the role of editor - how fast that year has past! I would like to thank all contributors for their assistance in providing editorial for the magazine and Marion Hawkins for acting as Treasurer. Despite various appeals we still need you, the parishioners, to get involved so please feel free to contribute.

Enjoy the changing colours of the Autumn season, we are so lucky to live in such a beautiful county.

With best wishes,

Margaret

Deadline for editorial for the January/February 2016 edition

30th November 2015

Email address: Withingtonmagazine@gmail.com



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Withington organ restoration sponsor appeal

Our 'Sponsor an Organ Pipe' appeal, launched only 3 weeks ago for the restoration of the Church's Ingram Organ, has had a tremendous initial response.

The appeal has currently reached a total of more than £2,000 towards the total restoration cost which will be over £7,000. We should know the result of a funding bid by the end of November. The restoration will take place in July next year.

Thank you to all those who have so generously given towards the appeal you have helped save this fine Organ from falling into total disrepair.

If you would like to sponsor a pipe(s), please contact me (Marcia Hopkins 850933) and I will send you a donor form or you can pick one up in the Church.

The pipes range in price from £200 for the Principal Pipes to £5 for a 1 ft pipe. You can if you wish dedicate the pipe to your friends or relations.

We will be holding two concerts **in the Church** to raise funds for the organ.

Moonfleet Ensemble

Early Music Group

play Handel Corelli Bach Purcell

with music from **The Hop Pickers' Feast**

and an introduction to the organ by our curate Paul Roberts

Saturday October 31st at 7pm

Tickets £10 on the door including wine

The RAIL MALE CHOIR

sing

a mix of Songs from Shows, Spirituals, Hymns and more...

Saturday December 12th at 7pm

**Tickets on the door £5, children under 12 free
including refreshments.**



Ride and Stride Thanks

Kevin, Ruth and Rob took part in this sponsored bike ride, and visited 13 Herefordshire churches and chapels. We are due to collect £145 at least, half of which will go to the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust (which gives grants towards the repair of churches and chapels in the county) and half will go to St Peter's Church, Withington. Thank you to all our sponsors.

St. Peter's Church News

Dear Friends,

November is very much the month of remembrance with it being All Saints Day on 1st, All Souls on the 2nd, Guy Fawkes night on 5th, Remembrance Sunday on 8th and Armistice Day on 11th.

Between 2014 and 2018 Remembrance Sunday takes on a more poignant note with it being the 100th anniversary of the First World War. And this year has a more local significance as it was one hundred years ago on 8th and 9th August 1915 that 750 soldiers from the Herefordshire Regiment landed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli followed by another 350 soon after. It was part of a disastrous campaign. By the time the regiment was evacuated in December, 950 of those men were sick, wounded or dead. One of those men was my grandmother's brother, my great uncle Harry Whittaker, who died on 7th November 1915. Harry was a gamekeeper's son from Woolhope, a farm labourer, who found himself going off to a foreign country to fight in the most appalling conditions and with very little hope of survival. On 8th August this year a new Suvla Memorial was unveiled at the Suvla Barracks in Hereford and I was very proud to lend Harry's medals as part of the exhibition and to be asked to read the following beautiful poem, *The West Wind* by John Masefield.

IT'S a warm wind, the west wind, full of birds' cries;
I never hear the west wind but tears are in my eyes.
For it comes from the west lands, the old brown hills.
And April's in the west wind, and daffodils.

It's a fine land, the west land, for hearts as tired as mine,
Apple orchards blossom there, and the air's like wine.
There is cool green grass there, where men may lie at rest,
And the thrushes are in song there, fluting from the nest.

"Will ye not come home brother? ye have been long away,
It's April, and blossom time, and white is the may;
And bright is the sun brother, and warm is the rain,--
Will ye not come home, brother, home to us again?"

"The young corn is green, brother, where the rabbits run.
It's blue sky, and white clouds, and warm rain and sun.
It's song to a man's soul, brother, fire to a man's brain,
To hear the wild bees and see the merry spring again.

"Larks are singing in the west, brother, above the green wheat,
So will ye not come home, brother, and rest your tired feet?
I've a balm for bruised hearts, brother, sleep for aching eyes,"
Says the warm wind, the west wind, full of birds' cries.

It's the white road westwards is the road I must tread
To the green grass, the cool grass, and rest for heart and head,
To the violets, and the warm hearts, and the thrushes' song,
In the fine land, the west land, the land where I belong.



The events of World War One were terrible as were the events of World War Two and other wars before and since, and it's important to take time out each year to remember those who have died as a result of war, ordinary people like my great uncle Harry who found himself fighting for justice and freedom. It's also important to take time out to reflect on the fact that people are still dying in wars today and to pray for them and for peace in the world. Best wishes, Jane



Bartestree Cross Service rota November/December 2015

	Dormington	Lugwardine	Westhide	Weston Beggard	Withington
Sunday November 1 st	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Holy Communion		11.00 Holy Communion	9.30 am Morning Prayer 4.00 pm Annual Memorial Service
Sunday 8 th		10.30 am Remembrance Service			
Sunday 15 th	11.00 am Family Communion	9.30 am Holy Communion		3.30 pm Evensong	9.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd		9.30 am Morning Prayer	11.00 am Morning Prayer		9.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th		4.00 pm Advent Carol Service	10.00 am Group communion Service		
Sunday December 6 th	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Holy Communion		11.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 13 th		9.30 am Family Service	11.00 am Family Communion		9.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 20 th	3.30 pm Carols and Christingle	6.00 pm Carol Service			9.30 am Holy Communion
Tuesday 22 nd			6.30 pm Carol Service		
Thursday 24 th	10.00 pm Christmas Communion	5.00 pm Crib Service 11.30 pm Midnight Mass		10.00 pm Christmas Communion	3.00 pm Crib Service 11.30 pm Midnight Mass
Friday 25 th			10.30 Family Christmas Communion		
Sunday 27 th	10.00 am Group Service				
Sunday 3 rd January	6.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Holy Communion		11.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Morning Prayer

Fundraising Programme for Charities and Church 2015

We aim to raise money for **various Charities** as well as for St Peter's Church, which needs money for both routine maintenance **and to update its facilities.**

Concert..... **MoonFleet Ensemble**.....Sat 31 October

Quiz Night.....Sat 7th November

Concert.....Hereford Rail Male Voice Choir..... Sat 12th December

For further details, please contact Ruth 01432 850074, or Margaret 01432 850448

Withington Village Hall



Photograph of the hall taken recently from a drone! This shows the full extent of our solar panels as well as part of Withington Fields and the MUGA (Multiple Use Games Area).

The hall has had its first FIT (Feed In Tariff) cheque for £596 for the three months 1st June to 1st September... way beyond our expectations or was it? It was the summer (?) then!

200 Club

For those who are not in this scheme the tickets will be on sale again next February/March. Full details will be in the January Magazine for the 2016/17 Draws.

August

1. 137 Paul Bainbridge
2. 39 Mrs Young
3. 96 Tess Gibbons
4. 122 Lynne Dodds

September

1. 43 Leo Soutar
2. 3 Mandy Harold
3. 182 Rene Hinton
4. 174 Kevin Hewison

October

1. 100 Mr/Mrs Lait
2. 115 Jan Studecus
3. 97 Sharon/Rob McGregor
4. 37 Victoria Briggs

Kevin Hewison

Macmillan Coffee Morning Thanks



We had a very enjoyable morning in the village hall chatting to friends over cups of coffee and eating some absolutely delicious cakes.
Thank you to everyone who contributed by providing the cakes, helping on the day, and giving generous donations.
There was a fun sweepstake won by Verna Howells, who gave her winnings to the Organ Appeal.
The total raised was the excellent sum of £260!



Preston Wynne

Hello Everyone,

Well, how was your Summer? As we write it is indeed the Indian Summer we were hoping for when last we wrote. Glorious blue and gold days (cold nights, but hey small price to pay). Hop picking on Ford's farm has come and gone in the village – it's a bit like a time warp here. The work is done by family and friends with a great camaraderie not experienced so much these days. Tricia produces amazing breakfasts and roast dinners which have to be washed down with cider (compulsory you understand) even up to thirty "pickers" are right royally fed. A tradition that has been standing for many years seems pretty much unchanged and long may it continue to do so, the only difference recently is that the cider used to be made on the farm the season before and now it's bought in – just as welcome though! Perhaps I should make it clear that breakfast is actually washed down with tea and the cider is saved for lunch time.

Church News



Nov 8th Family Service 3.00 pm

22nd 9.30 am

Dec 13th 3.00 pm

CAROL SERVICE 13TH DEC AT 3.00 PM

The Harvest Festival was well attended with the Church looking beautiful, flowers from Ben and Anna's wedding were still stunning so we were lucky to have the chance to enjoy them as well as lovely arrangements of fruit and veg.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU FROM US ALL TO TRICIA AND MARGARET for all the work you have put in over the last ten years running the whist drives at Burley Gate. These ladies have finally decided to retire from this valuable fund-raising monthly event. The problem now is HOW ARE WE GOING TO RAISE THE FUNDS REQUIRED FOR OUR PARISH SHARE? We have to raise over £3,000!

One idea – if you are a tax payer a regular sum which can be gift-aided would be an easy and valuable boost. If there is anyone out there who could help in this way please contact Pat who is the gift aid secretary on 820648.

We would all be most grateful for any fund-raising ideas, the need for funds in order to keep the Church and the Hall in good order so that they are available for village use is a constant battle, and, as with all things, it's not until we've lost these sort of commodities that we fully appreciate them.

Hall News

Christmas Bazaar November 15th 11.00 am til 2.00 pm

There will be lunches available with a large variety of stalls this is a great place to start your Christmas shopping and spend a pleasant social hour or so.

Christmas Lunch December 6th in the Hall at 12.15 pm

We can hardly believe it's that time of year again, it seems only a few months since we were last ushering Father Christmas into the Hall. We really do need numbers early for this event as he needs to know well in advance what to get his elves working on, and our chefs can plan for this important meal too. Please phone Tricia on 820650.

That's about it for now, look out for any forthcoming events on the sign on the corner as you never know what's round it (sorry!) Love Hilary and Tricia

NEWS FROM WITHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



The New Year has got off to a very busy start here at Withington Primary. It has been lovely to see the children settle into their new classes and great to meet new families joining our school. The autumn term is packed full of exciting events including a trip to Warwick Castle, Harvest Festival, Christingle and much more!



BREAKFAST CLUB

The autumn term saw the launch of our breakfast club. This club has been hugely popular so far this term. It allows parents to drop their children off at 8.00am each morning. Children enjoy breakfast whilst catching up with their friends around the breakfast table.

LUNCH TIME SUPERVISOR VACANCY

We have one vacancy for Children's Superintendent in our school. The role includes working as part of a team to ensure the welfare and safety of all children during lunch times. A full job description is available.

Term time only, Mondays to Fridays, 5 hours per week.

HC 2 – points 7 to 10. £13,715 to £14,338pa pro rata.

(£7.10 to £7.43 per hour)

Hours: 12:20pm – 1:20pm.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Successful applicants will be required to undergo a DBS Disclosure.

Application forms and a complete job description are available from the School Reception

BREAKFAST CLUB NOW AVAILABLE FROM 8.00AM

Please contact us for further information about the school and to arrange a visit if you are unable to make our Open day

Places are available for children aged 3 – 11.

Email: admin@withington.hereford.sch.uk

Telephone: 01432 850289

Westhide

At the end of August and despite grey skies, mizzly rain and unhelpful forecasts, Mike and Gill Rowlatt succeeded in hosting a great village barbeque with drinks, skittles, games and stalls all under canvas in their garden. Highlights included - an exploding barbeque, walnut shell boats capsizing and a skittles contest becoming extremely tense but in the end was won by our experienced expert, Robert. A great time was had by all and we are most grateful to Mike and Gill.

Geoff and Abi must have chosen the best Saturday of the year for their wedding at Westhide Church on 29th August - the sun shone all day for them.

September and the national sponsored Ride and Stride took place throughout the County raising money for Hereford Historic Churches Trust who give grants to Churches and Chapels for the maintenance of their buildings.

Westhide's H Art exhibition was held, as usual, in the Church with four local artists exhibiting. Over 300 people visited the exhibition, came to the demonstrations, enjoyed looking around the Church, and several took part in our Silent Auction. The week ended with a delightful concert given by "Slippery Slope" and also by "Bridget Snasdell and Friends"

Harvest Festival will be on October 25th at 11 o'clock followed by lunch in the Church. Please come and help decorate the Church - any time on Sat 24th.

Looking ahead to Christmas, our Candlelit Carol Service will be on December 22nd at 6.30pm and the Christmas Day service will be at 10.30 am.

Sheila

St. Peter's Church News



Come and join us on 3rd December for.....

A MESSY CHRISTMASTIME SESSION

Messy Church is for children up to top Juniors who are accompanied by their adults. We encourage all adults to take part in the activities alongside their children.

We hold it in the Village Hall as it has the necessary facilities. Hopefully we will one day have the proper facilities in church!

There is always plenty to do at Messy Church..... all sorts of crafts as well as story time and singing, and we always finish with food for all.

**Hope to see all our old friends, and some new faces on
Thursday 3rd December, 3.30 – 5.30**

Dates for the year

Thursday 15th October
Thursday 3rd December
Thursday 11th February
Thursday 17th March
Thursday 26th May
Thursday 7th July

Christmas at St Peter's, Withington

Crib Service – a beautiful service where children will have an active part.....
.....3pm Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass.....11.30pm Christmas Eve





Santa's watching

Christmas time is coming,
It's time we must be good,
For Santa's watching everyday,
And we forgot we should.

Clean our room and wash the car,
Help mum with every chore,
For presents we are after,
And a good one we must score.

No time to chat, no time to play.
There's dishes to be done.
There will be time later,
For us to have some fun!



Only Joking

**How do you approach an angry Welsh
cheese?**

Caerphilly!!

.....

Why did the scarecrow get a pay rise?

*His employers thought he was outstanding in his
field.*

.....

**What happened after an explosion at a
French cheese factory?**

All that was left was de brie.

.....

Which is the most religious cheese?

Swiss, because it is holy

Elizabeth Byworth Charity

ELIZABETH BYWORTH CHARITY

The NEXT MEETING of the Trustees will take place on
Wednesday 2nd DECEMBER.

If you are under 25 and live in Withington, Westhide or Eau Withington and would like some assistance with purchasing books, equipment etc. to help you with your studies please contact me at the address below.

ALSO funding is available to help with the costs for Educational visits,
uniforms and protective clothing.

APPLICATIONS should be made in writing stating age and approximate cost of items required and sent to the Clerk to the Trustees, Margaret Soutar,
3 Duke Street, Withington. HR1 3QD

A History Of Schools In Withington

By Laureen Willmott

Schools in Withington

There have been three locations for Schools in Withington. The first, in 1636, 30 years before the great fire of London, was originated by one Elizabeth Byworth, who bequested a sum of money to the Village for the purpose of building a school. This was located in the Stallenge, and built in 1732, and remained in use until 1871.

The first school, built on the site of the lower cottage in the picture. Immediately behind is the Old Chapel



Eventually the first school was too small for the number of children attending. Largely due to the untiring zeal of a former Rector Charles H.P. Abbott, a more central school was built in Veldo Lane. The Old school was sold for in 1871 for the sum of £155.8 shillings. At a date prior to the sale, the Staff and children were moved to temporary location, The Mintons, a building owned by W.H Apperley Esq. for a rent of £3.00 per year.

The Mintons. Entrance to school, was between the two windows. Bricked up in Photo



The First School as it is today

From an article of George Abell, a school trustee, and Manager. The school had a somewhat colourful history from 1732 to 1871. In the early days, schooling was intermittent, and at one point there were law suits against a school mistress, who apparently, had not been fulfilling her duties. After 1871 the cottage at the Stallenge has been called "The Old School House". The front of the school collapsed following a prolonged drought, and was extensively rebuilt. The original school room is still there, and is lower than ground floor level. The room is very atmospheric.

A History Of Schools In Withington



The New School in Veldo Lane, built 1872 and in use until 1984. Cost £1086.8s.4d, of which well over £500.00 was raised by the Rector, and Parishioners. It was an endowed Parochial School. Associated with the Church of England. In the post war years, due to heavy costs of repair and maintenance, the status of the school changed to become County Primary, and the building rented formerly by the Local Education Authority

A school log book states in its first entry, that Miss Louisa Mary Jefferies, commenced duties at the school on 6 October 1872. There were 120 children were on roll. Ellen Farmer and Amy Mack were enlisted as assistant teachers. Absenteeism was rife, with reasons from apple picking to whooping cough, diphtheria, chicken pox, scarlet fever measles, or simply helping Mother pick hops, or gooseberries, or haymaking.

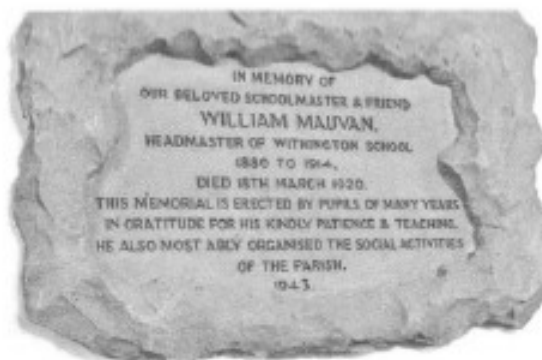


1894



1895

Mr Mauvan became Headmaster of Withington School in 1880, and remained until 1914.



Plaque to Willian Mauvan

Withington Church

Nature

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust began life as the Herefordshire and Radnorshire Nature Trust in 1962. From small beginnings, the Trust is now the largest membership conservation organisation in the county with just under 5,000 members and 55 nature reserves. Our vision is for a Herefordshire that is richer and more diverse in wildlife and that is valued, and cared for, by its people to the benefit of all.

What we do We manage our nature reserves to high conservation standards, ensuring they support a wide diversity of species and provide a haven for some of our rarest flora and fauna. Nearly all our reserves are open to the public.

We work on landscape-scale conservation projects, partnering with other organisations and groups to deliver large-scale and long term benefits to our treasured landscapes including the Lugg Valley, Doward, Woolhope Dome, North East Herefordshire Hills, Black Mountain Valleys and North West Herefordshire Uplands.

We inspire others to cherish our wildlife and landscapes by sharing our progress, running events and welcoming people to our reserves. We run **WildPlay**, getting young people closer to nature with outdoors, child-centred play and **Orchard Origins**, a community interest company which works with volunteers and vulnerable adults to care for our county's orchards – and produce wonderful food and drink!

We act as nature's voice, advocating on behalf of wildlife in the county to protect our green spaces.

Getting involved Along with 24 staff, the Trust is supported by many volunteers who help out at the office, at events and who also make up our work parties who undertake habitat management at our reserves. Our North-western reserves group meets every Friday to carry out practical habitat management tasks on our reserves in this area of the county. Volunteering with the Trust is a great way of helping to conserve Herefordshire's wildlife and landscapes and we welcome people of all backgrounds, ages and skill-levels to join us. Whether you are looking to learn new skills, put something back into our beautiful countryside or just want to enjoy the great outdoors with like-minded people there are lots of great opportunities to get involved – find out more at www.herefordshirewt.org/volunteer or contact us on 01432 356872

Near to you Nearest to Withington is Lower House Farm and Lugg Meadow Reserve. Upper & Lower Lugg meadows are unique, being living survivors of a land tenure and farming economy system that has disappeared elsewhere. Dating back to the time before the Domesday Book, Lugg Meadow is the most important surviving Lammas Meadow (common meadows opened for communal grazing on Lammas Day, the 1st August) in the UK. Ownership of the meadow is still divided, though in medieval times this would have been between dozens of owners with the land doled out in strips, today these have become amalgamated and a handful of different owners own largish parcels of the land. Over 20 grass species are recorded here as well as a variety of herbaceous plants. Two special plants found here are the snake's head fritillary and the narrow-leaved water dropwort - both nationally scarce. <http://www.herefordshirewt.org/reserves/lugg-meadow>



Left: Lugg Meadow

Right: Lower House Farm



Nature

Iolo Williams: The Wildlife of Wales and the Marches - successes and challenges Thurs 3 December 7.30pm

Talk by Iolo Williams, regular presenter on SpringWatch and S4C and one of the UK's foremost naturalists.

A strong voice in the Wildlife Trust federation, Iolo's passion and energy is infectious.

This talk will be a fantastic opportunity to learn first hand his experience of wildlife, plus an opportunity to pose questions to Iolo and colleagues from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust following the presentation.

Doors open at 6.45pm. Orchard Origins will be running a bar throughout the evening, from 6.45pm onwards, serving local ciders and apple juice, with all profits invested in wildlife conservation and the sustainable management of traditional orchards in Herefordshire

Venue: Shire Hall, Hereford

Cost: £10

Booking is essential. Book online at www.herefordshirewt.org or call 01432 356872



HEDGEHOGS

It is estimated that in the 1950s there were around 30 million hedgehogs in Britain. In 1995 a survey estimated the numbers at 1.5 million and it is thought that the numbers have decreased even more since then. The Government has named the hedgehog as a conservation priority.

Many hedgehogs are killed on the roads each year and the loss of hedges and hedgerows on which they rely for food and shelter has declined. There is less food around because of the use of pesticides and tidier gardens with fences or walls make urban areas less welcoming.

How can we help? If you have been putting out water and food keep doing it until November as they may still be active until then.



Leave part of your garden overgrown with dead leaves and twigs for building nests. Make a log pile for them to hibernate.

Hedgehogs like meaty dog food or dry cat food, raisins and chopped nuts.

Give water (not bread and milk as it is not good for them).

Make sure they can get into your garden - they need a 13cm square gap in fences and walls to gain access.

Don't use slug pellets and be careful when strimming as many hedgehogs are killed or hurt by strimmers.

Before burning rubbish check that no hedgehogs are nesting there.

Have Your Say

Your Letters, Views and Comments.



For 130 years SSAFA has been supporting all those who are serving or have ever served in the Armed Forces and their families. Whenever they need us, we'll do whatever we can to help. **Last year alone in Herefordshire we helped more than 90 individuals and families.** If you know anyone in Herefordshire who might need our help please call: **01432 273932 (24 hours)**

Follow us on Twitter  @SSAFA_Hereford

ssafa.org.uk

ssafa
Lifelong support
for our Forces
and their families

THANK YOU

My grateful thanks to everyone who attended the funeral of my darling husband Bob and for all the many cards and letters received. Special thanks go to Bryan for the wonderful tribute he paid to Bob. I feel so proud to know that Bob received the honour he so richly deserved.

I would also like to thank everyone who has visited and helped me to get through the first few difficult weeks, particularly my wonderful family.

Gwen Wanklyn

Send your details to **withingtonmagazine@gmail.com**



Memories by Bryan Davies



Many years ago, about 73 to be precise, during the early years of the war, my mother decided that she and I would pay a visit to some relatives who lived on a small farm about six miles away, telling me there was a special reason for the visit. The local bus dropped us off by a gate in the middle of the countryside. There wasn't a building in sight, just endless fields and the beginning of a path which led through the gateway into the country.

We started to walk along this rather narrow, muddy lane which appeared to lead to nowhere. Suddenly however, as we rounded a bend in the lane, there appeared ahead of us a small white farmhouse with some outbuildings nearby. This was our destination. My mother knocked on the door which after a while was answered by a young servant girl dressed in a white apron who invited us to enter.

As soon as we entered the living room it seemed as if we had stepped back a hundred years if not more. We were invited to sit on two hard, upright, wooden chairs where we remained while the girl disappeared through a nearby door. A cosy fire flickered in the large fireplace over which was suspended a large black cooking pot. In the corner lay a sheep dog, supposedly fast asleep, but with one eye open, totally uninterested in the two visitors who had entered his domain. On the high mantle piece, covered in a red cloth stood a pair of brass candlesticks and a photo of a young man in uniform.

Soon the door opened again and the young girl entered accompanied by an older man, obviously the farmer, my mother's cousin Enoch. After a brief introduction and a longer conversation (in Welsh) it was time for the midday meal. We were directed to a long, large table in the living room, which had two long benches, one each side. The living room door opened again and in trooped the remainder of the people who worked on the farm, taking up their positions on the benches. Then in came the farmer's wife. A small wiry woman who for some reason, either because of an accident or some growth defect, could not stand upright. She bent over at right angles to the floor from her waist up, consequently she had great difficulty in seeing where she was going. She did however manage to serve us all our meal from the pot suspended over the fire, using a large ladle. When this was done she cut slices of fresh bread which together with a huge slab of farmhouse butter she placed on the table. What a treat as butter was rationed! As we were eating, a large basin full of buttermilk was passed around the table, like a communion cup in church, and each person slurped away at its contents before passing it on to the person next to him or her. Everyone, except myself, had a drink until the basin was empty. To my horror it was re-filled and continued its journey around the table for a second time.

The conversation after the meal turned to the war and I gathered that their only son was in the R.A.F. (hence the photo on the mantelpiece) and flew a spitfire, which he occasionally flew over the farm. The word 'Spitfire' had a magical effect on a young boy of my age and I was desperate for more information, but none was forthcoming.

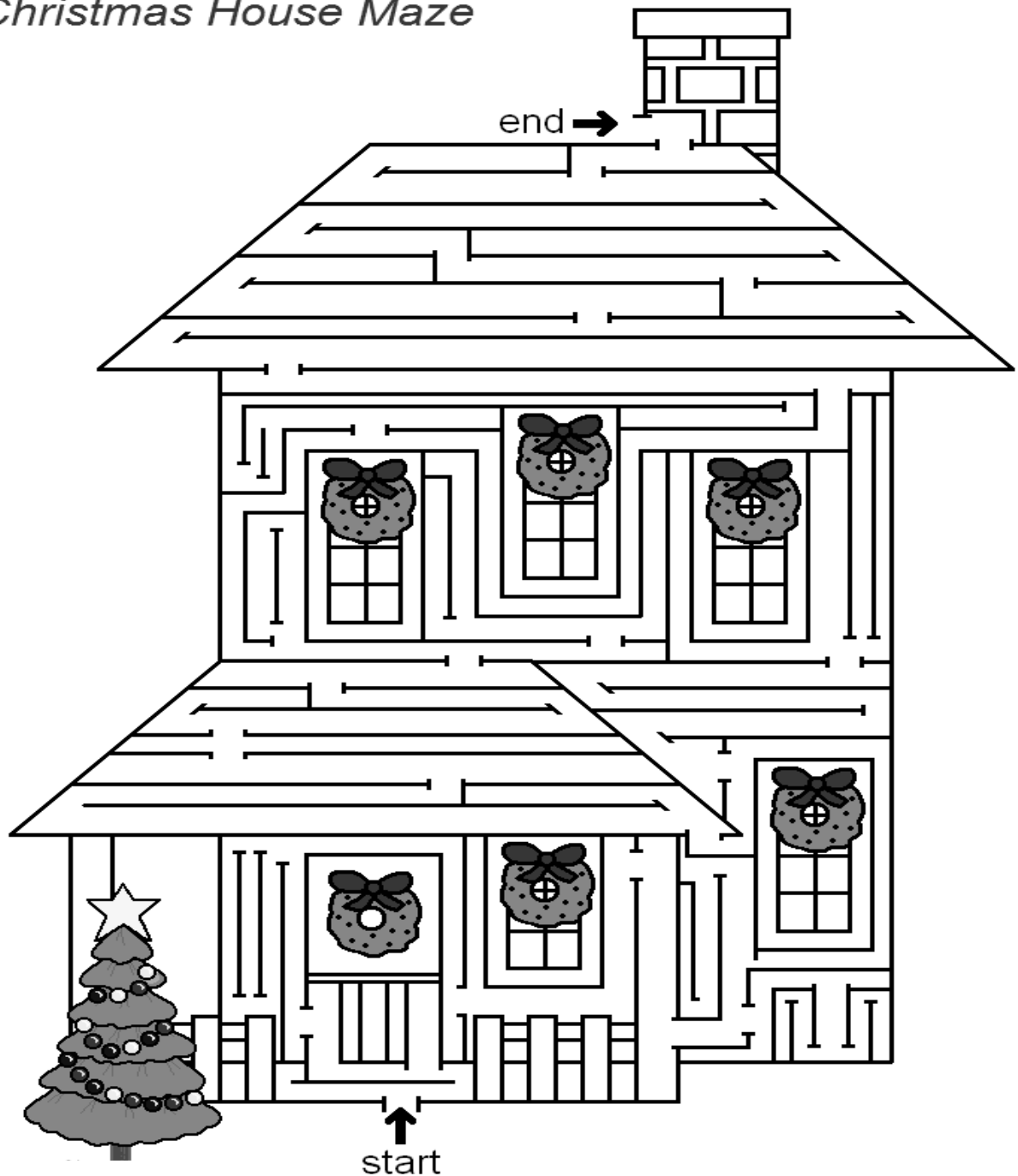
Enoch, the farmer, then looked at his pocket watch and soon we were led outside as the time had come to return home. We all stood there for a minute in the silence of the countryside with nothing but the occasional bleating of a lamb to disturb our peace. Then in the distance the sound of an engine; an aeroplane engine, approaching us at high speed and very low. What joy, a spitfire flying straight towards us, so low you could almost see the pilot. As it reached the farmhouse it stood on its tail and climbed almost vertically spinning away into the blue sky until it became a tiny dot and disappeared. What a thrill! How proud they must have been of their son.

Now the time HAD come to leave, but not before the farmer put his hand in his pocket, taking out a new, shinning shilling to give to me. (A Welsh tradition of giving children money when visiting relatives). What a very special day!!



KIDDIE'S

Christmas House Maze

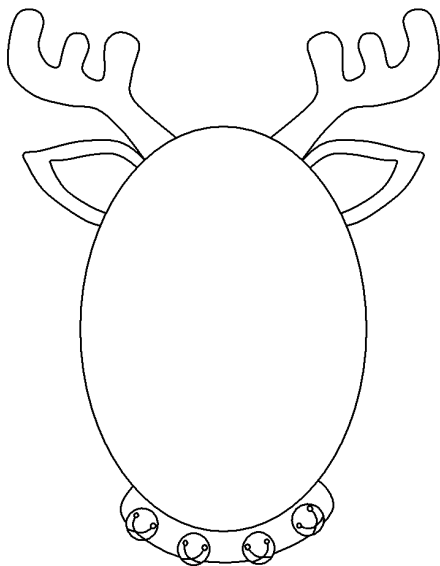


Can you find 11 presents hidden in the Magazine?



CORNER

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Refugee Crisis

Dear All,

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Bishop Richard has asked me to write to you to inform you of the Diocesan response to the Refugee Crisis. Chrissie Pepler, Community Link Development Officer, Karilyn Collins, World Development Officer and I, as your Director of Communications, met with both Bishops and the Archdeacon to discuss how we might respond if some of the government's planned 4000 Syrian refugees each year were directed to Herefordshire and Shropshire. We also discussed how we might respond to other questions and needs.

The arrival of refugees was split between the two major counties. Shropshire Council is already on top of planning, with an officer already in post to lead a planning group. Chrissie Pepler and Bishop Alistair will concentrate on Shropshire and be in direct contact with the Council to see what it may require the people of the Diocese to do. We all agreed it was essential that we work with the local authorities wherever possible, so the welcome for desperate people can be organised together rather than having individuals 'doing their own thing'.

Herefordshire Council is still deciding what to do. Councillor Johnson has been designated as the Lead member and will be pulling together a planning group. Karilyn Collins has been in touch with him already. Following our meeting, she will contact with him again, to offer The Great Hall at The Palace, for a meeting of the essential statutory and volunteer organisations, who will be invited to get involved.

In the meantime we are asking you, all the people and parishes of the Diocese of Hereford, to consider whether you, or someone you know, may volunteer for one or more of the following roles:

- **Befrienders** – We will need people to 'be there' for anyone arriving from Syria, whether families or single and people of all ages. Be realistic in offering to do this as it will mean a commitment of time and flexibility.
- **Accommodation** – Can we identify empty houses or flats, vacant holiday accommodation or suitable room in your home. A list of potential space would be very useful.
- **Arabic Speaker** – If you can speak Arabic that would be very useful and we would love to know who you are.
- **School Spaces** – It would be helpful to know where our schools have space for new children.
- **Support Workers** – We will need people who have experience in working with families and traumatised people. We need medical volunteers and those with expertise we have not identified but which you think might be useful.

If you can, please share this e-mail as widely as possible in the parishes, both within and outside the church. We are asking volunteers to let me know a.holden@hereford.anglican.org what you can offer, under which heading, as

Refugee Crisis

soon as possible. Please be as generous as you can. We expect to get some weeks notice of potential arrivals.

We are also asking all parishes to pray about this terrible situation. You may choose to hold a special service, a vigil or just to use the Church of England prayer for Refugees which you will find on the front page of the Diocesan website www.hereford.anglican.org. We would like the prayer used widely and we will provide a sheet for reproduction and distribution in the immediate future. I will email it to you as the most efficient way of reaching all parts of our very large Diocese and suggest you photocopy onto a heavier coloured paper if possible. Just do your best!

You may wish to donate money which we suggest you direct to the agencies working on the ground in the Middle East and in Europe. We suggest Christian Aid, Tearfund, The Red Cross and Save the Children.

Anni Holden
Anni Holden
Director of Communications
The Palace, Hereford HR4 9BL
01432 373342 or 07889 186316
a.holden@hereford.anglican.org
www.hereford.anglican.org

Gardening Club

Forthcoming Events:

October 21st - Pots for Winter by Shane Powell

November 18th - Flower Arranging by Yvonne Berry

December 16th - Christmas meal at Walwyn Arms, Much Marcle. Menues from Kathy Fields or myself.

Look forward to new members - all meetings at 7.30p.m. on 3rd Wednesday in the month.

Contact Diane Barber 01432 850371. Debbie Barber 01432 853086

It seems a bit early to say - wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Local History

Hops in Herefordshire

Fields of hops are known in most parts of the country as hop gardens, but in Herefordshire they are called hop yards. Once established, a hop yard can produce hops for fifteen years or more.

Hop growing in Herefordshire is now mainly concentrated in the sheltered river valleys of the Frome and the Lugg in the west of the county which has good depth of loamy soil and a plentiful supply of water. At one time, at least 80% of parishes in Herefordshire cultivated hops and the first reference to hop growing in the County was in the Bromyard district in 1577.

By 1883 the principal hop-growing areas of Herefordshire were: Bromyard; Bishops Frome; Castle Frome; Eardisland; Eye; Hope; Kimbolton; Leominster; Lindridge; Ledbury; Stoke Lacy; Tenbury; and Tarrington. Hops were grown in 81 parishes and the hop yards totalled over 12,300 acres and a total of £24,160 was paid as hop duty to the Government by the county.

Demand for beer increased when the government tried to deter people from drinking gin and with the expansion of the industry, breweries were established in Hereford, Ledbury and Leominster. It was recognised that the railways were the best option for transporting the hops to a broader market but in 1851 (two years before the railway arrived in the county) concerns were raised about the selling of hops outside of the county:

"Whenever we have a railway into this city, immediate steps must be taken for establishing a hop market here, in order that the farmers may dispose of Hereford hops in their own country, and not have the trouble of journeying to a distant market to sell what may be disposed of at their own doors - great parts of the hops of Herefordshire being disposed of at Worcester, acquire the title of 'Worcester hops' and thus rob us of the celebrity of our own county's growth."

In 1857 a Corn Exchange was built in Broad Street, Hereford, and hop markets were held there. In 1911 the Corn Exchange was converted into the Kemble Theatre but it was still used for corn markets on Wednesdays when there were no matinee performances. This continued until 1950 and the theatre closed in 1963.

The first half of the 19th century saw the highest acreage of hops grown in the Bromyard district (4,251 acres). However, over-planting, blight and competition from foreign markets led to a steep decline in production and by 1985 the acreage had declined to just 650.

By the beginning of the 20th century the British hop industry was in a depression and was suffering from cheap imports. Growers campaigned for an import duty but no action was taken by the government and by 1914 the pressure from cheap imports had caused a further national decline.



Contact Names and Telephone Numbers

Byworth Trust Clerk	Margaret Soutar	850448
Cross Keys	Chris Corbin	820616
Gateway Bridge Club	Adrian Lunt	359463
Music Tots	Gemma Griffiths	07890 1780 99

Police

Community Support	Dean Wall/Elena Ekanite	101
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Royal British Legion

Brian Reader	851842
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St. Peters Church

Rector	Jane Davies	850244
Church Warden	Kevin Hewison	850074
	Brian Reader	851842
PCC Secretary	Marcia Hopkins	850933
Bell Ringing	Kevin Hewison	850074

Village Hall

Chairman	Kevin Hewison	850074
Booking Secretary	Kathy Fields	851001

WG Parish Council

Clerk		
Chairman	Paul Bainbridge	850655
Vice-Chairman	Ralph Barber	853068

Whitestone Chapel

Ian Porter	01981 540388
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Withington Football Club

Chairman	Steve Caine	851857
Secretary	Ray Rice	850669

Withington Post Office	850356
Withington Primary School	850289

Withington Parish Magazine	Margaret Thompson	850182
Withington Village Store		851777



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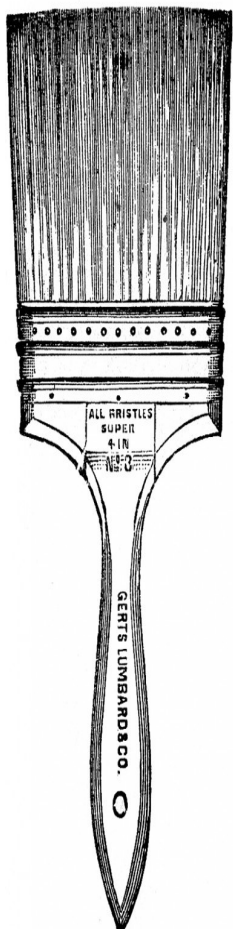
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