

A festive New Year's scene featuring two champagne flutes filled with bubbly, gold streamers, and pine branches with gold ornaments.

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Withington Parish Magazine

January and February 2020



Hereford's finest Independent Garden Centre and Nurseries

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Editorial

Dear All,

As we approach the final days of 2019 we have the opportunity to reflect upon the year and learn from experience, whether good or bad. One particular topic this last year (Brexit) has, in some instances, created division between friends and family so let 2020 be a new start, and acceptance and tolerance be adopted by all in order to repair fractured relationships (the magazine has always remained a 'Brexit' free zone and politically will do so in the future!).

So, I send my very best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and good luck, health and happiness for 2020.

Margaret

Volunteering

New Year! New Start! New Course! Home Start!

This year you could make a real difference!

Meet new people, make new friends, be part of a great team that helps others. ~You could be that special friend that means so much to someone else.

Home-Start Herefordshire supports families with children from 0-19 throughout the county.

Are you willing to offer 2 or 3 hours a week to give help & support to parents finding life hard by using your own experiences and your home-visiting training

The preparation course is a **free 1 day a week session, running for 10 weeks every Thursday, 9.30-2.50 pm. This will be starting on 30th January 2019. All travel expenses will be paid** and we are delighted to now be able to offer it at an **accredited** level which requires a fee of £40

Our Scheme manager and organisers are fully qualified and experienced to deliver this valuable course, the purpose of which is to explain the ethos of the charity and to obtain an understanding of the different needs the families may require.

If you would like to know more about how you become a volunteer, help us with our fundraising or events please do give us a call **01432 371212**. Suite 1, Lakeside Offices, Thorn Business Park, Rotherwas Hereford, HR2 6JT homestart.hereford@virgin.net
www.home-startherefordshire.co.uk

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH/APRIL EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE:

7TH FEBRUARY 2020

Email: withingtonmagazine@gmail.com

Tel: 01432 850182

St. Peter's Church News

It was pointed out to me recently that one of the few positive aspects of the modern celebration of Halloween is that the displays of all the plastic paraphernalia that accompany it act as a delay on the arrival of Christmas on the supermarket shelves. It forces a commercial break on the seemingly ever earlier temptations of shiny new decorations, miniature elves and the 50 feet high towers of chocolate that we have become used to. But take a trip to your local supermarket now (mid November as I write this) and you will see that the battle is over. Christmas, neatly sidestepping the traditional, age-old attention to a period of reflective preparation and anticipation in Advent, has arrived! A season of light and joy and wonder (and, potentially, unbelievable cost) is, from a commercial point of view, already with us.

Such insistence on looking forward into a bright future can often ignore the reality of life, perhaps especially acutely felt at this time of year, for many. Far too often, for too many people, the passage of life can feel like stepping into darkness, full of anxiety and lacking in any sort of clarity or allure. As we are encouraged to be hopeful, forward thinking people, orientated on a new dawn, we do well to remember those for whom gloom and fear is an unshakeable reality.

Not knowing what is around the corner and being fearful of what it might possibly look like, is a feeling I have had a taste of at a number of different times in my life. It came in a different, although no less anxious, way as I began to discern God's voice inviting me to His ministry and then again as I tried to make sense of what He wanted that ministry to look like. At such times I have been reminded of a line in Henry Newman's (otherwise rather gloomy) hymn, 'Lead Kindly Light' when we sing, 'Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene; one step enough for me'. Newman doesn't ask for the whole of the road that God intends for him to travel to be floodlit - far from it. He simply asks for there to be enough light to take the next, perhaps very tiny, step; to know that it is safe to answer the urge to venture out, no matter how short the distance.

That urge to venture out, however unnerving it might be, is, for the monk, theologian, writer and mystic Thomas Merton (1915-1968), motivated by a wholehearted desire to please God. It is an urge, met with assurance, that is beautifully summed up in this prayer of Merton's, from his book 'Thoughts in Solitude';

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
Amen

Christmas is coming and we are rightly delighted that the most wonderful story the world has ever known is about to be told again and afresh. Before the joy though we wait, in anticipation, reflection and, above all, in prayer for all those who are fearful, anxious and alone, that they may have enough light for their road ahead today.

Simon

St. Peter's Church News

Services, Christmas, January and February for St Peter's Church Withington, and Westhide. Also look on www.achurchnearyou.com

	Withington St Peter's	Westhide St Bartholomew's
Sunday 22nd December		6.30pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve	3.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass	
Christmas Day		10.30am Christmas Communion
Sunday 12th January	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
Sunday 19th January	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 26th January	9.30am Morning Prayer (?)	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 9th February	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
Sunday 16th February	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 23rd February	9.30am Morning Prayer(?)	11am Holy Communion



Christmas in the Bartestree Cross Group

Something for everyone during this wonderful season in your local churches.

Come and be part of the great news of Christmas

Saturday 30th November & Sunday 1st December

Advent weekend, Westhide

Friday 13th December

2pm Christingle, Withington

Sunday 15th December

6pm Carol Service, Weston Beggard

Sunday 22nd December

3.30pm Carols & Christingles, Dormington.

5pm Carols & Christingles, Lugwardine.

6.30pm Carol service, Westhide

Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service, Withington.

5pm Crib Service, Lugwardine.

10pm Christmas Communion, Dormington

10pm Christmas Communion, Weston Beggard.

11.30pm Midnight Mass, Lugwardine

11.30pm Midnight Mass, Withington

Christmas Day

10.30am Holy Communion, Westhide

For more details of these and all our services follow us on **facebook** or find your church at www.achurchnearyou.com

St Peter's Church News



Burns Night Celebration

Saturday 25 January 2020

Withington Village Hall HR1 3PP



3 Course Supper

Piper, Entertainment

BAR, Raffle

Tickets £15 (Under 12s £5)

Contact: Penny 853261 or Sheila 851077

Ruth 850074 or Margaret 850448

Proceeds in aid of

St John the Baptist Church, Weston Beggard and St Peter's Church, Withington

Fundraising Programme Update for Charities and Church 2019

We **welcome everybody** to join these events. They are good social gatherings as well as fund raisers!

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**.

Good News.....our **Improvements Fund** is **growing**, now with **3 Grant** awarding bodies giving their support so far, and more being approached. Also of course is the local support for our fundraising functions, which has been excellent!

Venues for our functions vary, and include the Village Hall, the church and individuals' homes.

Big Breakfasts are proving very popular once again and are on the 1st Saturday of the month.

Please come! All are welcome. Proceeds are shared between a different local charity each month, and Withington Church.

We have already lined up some good musical events for 2020 and 2021!

Big Breakfast monthly.....Sat 4th January (VH) 8.30 – 10am

.....Sat 1st February " " "

.....Sat 7th March. " " "

.....Sat 4th April " " "

Burns Night Celebration..... Sat 25th January (VH) 7 for 7.30pm

Tanzania Coffee Morning.....Fri 7th February (chez Kevin & Ruth) 10.30am

More information from Ruth/Kevin 01432 850074, Margaret 01432 850448



Tanzania Coffee Morning

Our annual Tanzania Coffee Morning raises funds to support a student through school in Dar es Salaam. Our giving goes directly to the school, through Steve Chandler who visits Dar regularly, and is for a named student.

Coffee Morning Friday 7th February, 10.30am at The Lakes, Whitestone, home of Ruth and Kevin Hewison.

Withington Book Club

In November we discussed 'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn. It tells the incredibly moving true story of a middle aged couple who lose their home and livelihood and simultaneously discover that the man, Moth, has a terminal illness. So, they are homeless and facing imminent death. Incredibly bravely, they choose to walk the South western coastal path, all 650 miles of it! The book tells of their physical and spiritual adventures and discoveries along the way.

We all really enjoyed the book and had a great evening discussing it. If you'd like to consider joining us, or perhaps sitting in on a meeting, please ring Sue on 01432851710

Withington Village Hall

Greetings and Best Wishes to all our hirers and users of the Village Hall as we enter our 21st Year of operation. We would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

In particular we would like to thank everyone involved with the smooth running of the hall;

Kathy Fields, the booking secretary

Paula Highley, the treasurer

Raymond Highley, committee member, versatile repair man

Rob Soutar, committee member, minute secretary

Bob Wood, committee member

Catherine Healey, committee member

Kevin Hewison, Chair

Joe the cleaner – who makes sure that the hall is clean and tidy in spite of some groups desire to leave it dirty and not taking their rubbish home!!

Our trusty, reliable tradespeople;

Henry Wilmott, our painter and decorator

Nick Preece, Plumber, Builder and Emergency 'trouble shooter'.

Vernon Davies, Electrician.

200 Club Winners

November 2019

December 2019

1. £20 109 Mr/Mrs Wilesmith

1. £100 174 Kevin Hewison

2. £10 166 Jane Sheehan

2. £60 190 Rene Hinton

3. £10 168 Dave Reeves

3. £35. 127 Bob Wood

4. £10. 71 Colin/Janice Holmes

HOT NEWS

A defibrillator will be fitted on the outside of the Village Hall in early January.

This has been provided by a generous donation from a villager. Its upkeep and maintenance will be undertaken by Withington Group Parish Council,

Withington Group Parish Council

Withington Group Parish Council update from the November 2019 meeting.

Your **Withington Councillors** are: Cllr Paul Bainbridge (Chair), Cllr Alison Bainbridge, Cllr Kevin Hewison, Cllr Barclay Rogers, Cllr Tom Nellist, Cllr Bob Wood, Cllr Jonathan Beech, Cllr Martin Kirk, Cllr John Baker, Cllr Sarah Winwood (Footpaths Officer, Withington)

Your **Westhide** Councillors are: Cllr Ralph Barber – Vice Chairman, Cllr Judith Howe, Cllr Julie Williams (Footpaths Officer, Westhide)

Your **Preston Wynne** Councillors are: Cllr Simon Dent, Cllr Sue Rudd, Cllr Ed Simcock (Mrs Simcock is Footpaths Officer, Preston Wynne)

To be put in contact with any of the above Councillors, please contact the clerk first at:
wgpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk

The Withington Group Parish Council have held meetings every month so far this year, full minutes for these meetings are available on our website <https://withingtongroupparishes.co.uk/>

Meeting notes: There were 6 members of the public in attendance, many of whom spoke up against the proposed planning application for The Green in Withington. The WGPC resolved to object to both this application and the planning application for poly tunnels and supporting developments in Ocle Pychard. The WGPC also resolved to set the precept at £22,000 for next year 2020 to 2021.

Footpaths Officer: Please don't forget that we need your assistance in reporting problems on the footpaths throughout the Parishes, should you find broken styles or blocked footpaths, please can you let the Parish Council clerk or your footpath officer know and they can try and get the problem dealt with?

Tree Warden: We are looking for a parishioner who has the time to keep an eye out for trees that might be sick or could cause a problem on footpaths and can report these to the Parish Clerk. Perhaps you are some one who is out every day walking your dog? Could you also volunteer as our Tree Warden? We connect you with a network of other people doing the same role, there can be training and support – if you are interested, please can you contact the clerk for more information?

Dates for future meetings; any member of the public can come to a Parish Council meeting, and there is a space early on every agenda for members of the public to ask a question or to raise a matter for the Council's consideration. The Parish Council meetings are all listed on the web site. If you want to know more about any of these meetings topics, do please look at our website and see the agenda, which are posted at least three days before each meeting.

Thank you. Mrs Sophie Glover, wgpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01432 617306 (Office hours only please)

Rainfall Records from Whitestone provided by Stephen Phillips, Whitestone

October and November 2019 have been very wet, 114 mm in October and 123 mm in November, with June 2019 having come a close second with 117 mm.

From 21 September to 18 October it rained every day (except two) over 27 consecutive days.

From 1 to 18 November it rained another 18 consecutive days (except one).

The storms this year on October 25 & 26 delivered 57 mm and on November 13 & 14 delivered 33 mm. So, although the rivers came up higher in some areas in November the actual rainfall was less.

These are not the wettest Novembers, although the month is usually wet. November 2012 had 120 mm and November 2009 was the wettest recorded with 152 mm.

Withington Group Parish Council Cont.

WITHINGTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL	
Withington (10)	Contact Number
Paul BAINBRIDGE Chairman	01432 850655
Allison BAINBRIDGE	01432 850655
Kevin HEWISON	01432 850074
Barclay ROGERS	01432 820621
Tom NELLIST	01432 850941
Jonathan BEECH	01432 850269
Bob WOOD	
Sarah WINWOOD Footpath officer	01432 851233
Martin KIRK	01432 850420
John BAKER	01432 850075

Westhide (3)	
Ralph BARBER	01432 853086
Judith HOWE	01432 850117
Julie WILLIAMS Footpath Officer	01432 850315
Preston Wynne (3)	
Simon DENT	01432 820615
Ed SIMCOCK Footpath officer is Mrs Simcock	01432 820640
Sue RUDD	01432 820166



Christmas rubbish and recycling collections are due to change as follows:



No collections

Wednesday 25 December

Thursday 26 December

Wednesday 1 Jan 2020



Revised collection day

Saturday 28 December

Sunday 29 December

Saturday 4 Jan 2020

Please put your bin out by 6.30am as collections may be earlier over the festive period. If you have too much waste for your bins, our Household Recycling Centres are open as normal, but closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years' Day. Remember to reduce, reuse, recycle.



Memories by Bryan Davies

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.

Memories by Bryan Davies

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.

Bryan.



West Mercia Police

West Mercia Police are recruiting - they want you, they want you as a new recruit!

If you enjoy facing challenges and solving problems and would like to contribute to keeping your community safe while developing a wider range of skills, then policing could be for you. The entry route for student police officers entering West Mercia Police has changed as part of a national overhaul in the way constables are recruited and trained. We're looking for committed and talented individuals to become police constables.

Policing is challenging and rewarding. As a student police officer, you'll join as a constable, learn new skills, meet new people, gain a paid-for degree or postgraduate diploma from Staffordshire University and set out on a career path that could see you specialise as a firearms officer, dog handler, traffic cop, detective, or the trusted, familiar face of West Mercia Police in the community. We have a strong family ethos, where our friendly teams work closely together to get the job done and where you will be treated as a valued member of the team from day one.

Key qualities: We would like to hear from you if you are:

- a good communicator with a calm, confident personality
- a problem solver
- a team player
- someone who easily builds relationships
- someone who respects other people & appreciates views from communities across the region

For more information, eligibility requirements and how to apply please go to the West Mercia Police website, [careers section](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/police-forces/west-mercia-police/areas/west-mercia/ca/careers/policerecruitment/policerecruitment/)

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/police-forces/west-mercia-police/areas/west-mercia/ca/careers/policerecruitment/policerecruitment/>

Hereford area

A number of offences / attempts are being made in the Hereford area where typically a male purporting to be a police officer contacts the victim (normally elderly) by phone and states that their bank account has been compromised in some way. Suspect then encourages victim to attend their bank and remove cash before handing this over to a "courier" who visits their home address. Variations of this modus operandi are being reported.

This is a request for the public to be vigilant to this or similar types of activity.

The Courtyard

LIVE SHOWS:

Saturday 25 January 2020. 11am (free pre-activity from 10.30am) LITTLE GRIMM TALES What if the wishes were granted? What if the magic were real? Beasts and breadcrumbs, wolves and witches, frogs and fairies all join the fun in a stunning new adaptation of Grimm's most magical tales. Join award winning Box Tale Soup on an adventure for children aged 3+, featuring beautiful puppets, innovative theatre and spellbinding original music.

Tuesday 28 January 2020. 2pm THE COURTYARD'S SPECTACULAR TEA DANCE Join us for another spectacular tea dance hosted by Rachel Freeman from Everybody Dance. This fun and nostalgic dementia friendly event will brighten up anyone's day. Full of music, tea, cakes and dancing, plus students will be coming along to perform and join in the fun.

Friday 31 January 2020. 7.30pm HEREFORD BIG BAND PRESENT: VINTAGE SWING Hereford's own community Big Band is a collection of musicians: young and old, students and teachers, experienced pros and enthusiastic amateurs. They meet every week to celebrate their passion for the big band swing sound of the 40s, 50s and 60s. The band features music by Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Glenn Miller, as well as more recent arrangements with the emphasis on good-time dance and party music!

FAMILY SATURDAYS:

FROZEN 2 (U) 4 JANUARY 11AM ** Free pre-activity from 10.30am: Tickets £7, Concessions £6.50, Under 16s £5

CATS (TBC) 11 JANUARY 11AM ** Free pre-activity from 10.30am: TbcTickets £7, Concessions £6.50, Under 16s £5

ABOMINABLE (U) 18 JANUARY 11AM ** Free pre-activity from 10.30am: TbcTickets £7, Concessions £6.50, Under 16s £5

EXHIBITIONS ANOTHER COUNTRY Saturday 11 January – Saturday 15 February. Bridget Macdonald continues to explore themes of rural life in this exhibition of large scale charcoal drawings, luminous landscapes and small still life paintings. She recently undertook an artist's residency on a remote estate in Romania. Work she has developed from that experience is included, alongside paintings and drawings of Herefordshire orchards, cattle, sheep and the country around the Malvern Hills where she lives.

Preston Wynne

Hello Everyone,

We must have wished you all a Happy Christmas and New Year already, but it won't hurt to do it again with 2020 knobs on!

If you went to the switching on of the Christmas lights in Bromyard this year you'll know that the weather was kind for once, being relatively mild and NOT RAINING. Incidentally if you haven't seen the lights there do make a bit of a detour through the town whilst they are still there - they are spectacular. You need to park up in the square and walk up really to fully appreciate them. Some of the most clever features are made by Richard Evans from Bromyard who got his knowhow from the Blackpool whiz kids and there are new additions every year - brilliant in every sense of the word.

Church News

Jan 12th 9.30 am H C (tbc watch for sign on corner)

Jan 26th 11.15 am Family Service

Feb 9th 9.30 am H C

Feb. 23rd 11.15 am Family Service

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER this year will be on 1st MARCH at 7.30 in the Hall. This is always a popular evening so do book early by phoning Tricia on 820650. Adults £12.50 concessions for children.

Hall News

The Memorial Hall Centenary Celebration Cheese and Wine Supper held on the 15th November was great. Research into the archives threw up some interesting facts about the Hall and the parishioners of Preston Wynne who gave their lives in the World Wars. The Hall was initially for the soldiers who came home and a short service was included in the proceedings faithfully following the format as reported in the newspaper of November 1919 at the inauguration ceremony. The evening was rounded off with some rousing wartime songs beautifully accompanied by Simon Crowther. Thanks are due to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success but especially to Revd Paul Roberts who entered into the spirit of this special event hitting just the right note with a perfect mix of fun and respect for those who never came home from the war.

The Christmas Bazaar held on 23rd November was well attended raising welcome funds for the Hall. Thanks again to all who helped with this and to those who came along and supported the event.

Finally, for those of you who don't already know, there is a Post Office van in Preston Wynne once a week. It is parked outside the old post office, Old Rose Cottage every Thursday between 2.45 and 3.15pm. A bit reminiscent of the now defunct library service eh?

Think that's about it for now, see you in the "nearly" Spring!

Love Hilary and Tricia



Extract from Kelly's Directory – Westhide 1885

Westhide in 1885

Another extract from Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire 5th edition published in London in October 1885

WESTHIDE is a chapelry in Stoke Edith parish, 2 miles from Withington station, on the Great Western railway and 5¾ north-east-by-east from Hereford, in the southern division of the county, hundred, Hereford union, county court district and petty sessional division, Weston rural deanery and Hereford arch deanery and diocese. The Hereford and Gloucester canal bounds the parish on the north side, which is situated about 1 mile from the road leading from Hereford to Worcester, over Frome's hill. The church of St Bartholomew is an ancient building of stone, in the gothic style, consisting of chancel, nave, south aisle, south porch, and a large but low western tower containing 3 bells; the tomb of the founder, with his effigy is placed in a plain recess in the south wall of the aisle, and here is also a fine alabaster slab in incised effigies of a male and female with sixteen children, and a Latin inscription round the stone partly illegible to Richard Maryington and Alice his wife; in the south wall of the aisle is a fine piscina and an altar slab, which, as well as that in the chancel, is supported on stone brackets; in 1886-7 the church was restored with the exception of the tower, which has since been thoroughly renovated; the chancel was rebuilt and lengthened, the north wall of the nave rebuilt, a new vestry and south porch added, a new roof placed on the south aisle and the whole of the internal floors and fittings were renewed and re-arranged, at a cost of about £800, under the supervision of Mr Deashill; in the churchyard remains the stone shaft of a cross, on which the sun dial is placed, dated 1739. The register dates from the year 1660. The living is a perpetual curacy, united to the parish of Stoke Edith, joint gross value £490 yearly; including 21 acres of glebe with residence, in the gift of Lady Emily Foley and held since 1828 by the Rev. William Henry Lambert M.A. of Merton College Oxford, who resides at Stoke Edith; the rev Samuel John Butcher M.A. of Trinity College, Dublin, is curate in charge. There are two quarries, one of road stone, the other of an inferior kind of wall-stone. Lady Emily Foley, of Stoke Edith Park, Hereford, is lady of the manor, and Lieut.-Col Scott, Miss Evans, the Rev Langton Edward Brown B.A. vicar of Dormington, and Lady Lindsay, wife of Col. Sir Coutts Lindsay bart. are the chief landowners. The soil is deep clay; subsoil red marl. The chief crops are hops, apples, wheat and beans. The area is 1,191A 1R, 12P; rateable value, £1,837:

the population in 1881 was 166.

Parish Clerk, James Williams

Letters arrive from Hereford at 09.30 a.m.; Wall Letter Box cleared at 3.45 p.m. weekdays only. The nearest money order & telegraph office is at Hereford.

School built, with teacher's residence adjoining, in 1863, at a cost of £400. The school is at present used only as a Sunday school. The children of this place attend the school at Withington.

Berrow Mrs

Taylor John. Shopkeeper

Butcher Rev. Samuel John M.A. [curate in charge]

Williams John & Edwin, farmers

Corbett Joseph, blacksmith

Jones, James, farmer, & hop grower, The Farm

Green Selina (Mrs), shop keeper

Moseley Henry, farmer, Westhide Court

Moseley William, farmer & hop grower, Upper House

Panniers William, farmer

Parsons Thomas, farmer

Parsons Bessie and Margaret (Misses), farmers, Dodmarsh

Smith Samuel, farmer and hop grower, Woodmanton.

Kevin Hewison

Westhide

Looking back to the end of 2019, the first 'Westhide Crib Fest' was held in the church at the beginning of December and featured 38 nativity sets from around the world. There were knitted sets, wooden sets, porcelain and china sets, some handmade sets and some mass produced. There were ebony figures from Tanzania (strangely featuring what appeared to be four wise men), little purple figurines from Mexico, olive wood figures from Jerusalem and many more. One knitted set had been chewed by the family dog, and one nativity set appeared to include two baby Jesus. There were also a number of wooden cribs of various shapes and sizes, some donated from the surrounding parishes, and numerous stables. Visitors were treated to tea and cake, and most appeared surprised and delighted by such a remarkable collection of beautiful and varied nativity sets.

Thank you to all those who lent their nativity sets to the church for this event, to those who provided delicious cakes, and to those who joined the duty rota in church over the weekend.

The Crib Fest weekend also saw the church hosting a Wine and Cheese evening, and a special advent service on Sunday, amidst the beautiful nativity scenes.

Christmas in Westhide will feature our Carol Service on 22nd December at 6.30pm, the church beautifully decorated with greenery and candles, the famous Carol Singing on Christmas Eve starting at Robert Meredith's farm at about 6pm, and the Christmas Day service at 10.30am. We are grateful to our new vicar Simon for enthusiastically supporting these events.

There will be an extra church service on 29th December at 10.30am, to which all four local parishes are warmly invited. It is Westhide's turn to host this.

The New Year, and New Decade, will throw up new challenges for us all. For those new families that have recently moved into the village, and those that will join our community this year, we hope that they find a warm welcome here in Westhide.

Contact Names and Telephone Numbers

<u>Byworth Trust Clerk:</u>	Margaret Soutar	850448
<u>Police:</u>	Safer Neighbourhood Team PC Bart McDonagh	101
<u>St. Peters Church:</u>	Rector	TBC
	Church Warden	Kevin Hewison 850074
	PCC Secretary	Margaret Soutar 850448
	Bell Ringing	Kevin Hewison 850074
<u>Village Hall:</u>	Chairman	Kevin Hewison 850074
	Booking Secretary	Kathy Fields 851001
<u>WG Parish Council:</u>	Clerk	Sophie Glover 270499
	Chairman	Paul Bainbridge 850655
	Vice-Chairman	Ralph Barber 853086
<u>Whitestone Chapel</u>	Ian Porter	01981 540388
<u>Withington Football Club:</u>	Ray Rice	850669
<u>Withington Post Office:</u>		850356
<u>Withington Primary School:</u>		850289
<u>Withington Parish Magazine: Editor</u>	Margaret Thompson	850182
<u>Withington Village Store:</u>		851777

Kiddies Corner

New Year's Eve Jokes

- Q. Why do you need a jeweller on New Year's Eve?
- A. *To ring in the new year*
- Q. What happened to the iPhone bully on New Year's Eve?
- A. *It was charged with battery*
- Q. What happened to the fireworks who were arrested on New Year's Eve?
- A. *They were let off*
- Q. What happened to the person who stole a calendar on New Year's Eve?
- A. *He got 12 months*

Knock Knock.
Who's there?
Abby.
Abby who?
Abby new year!



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