

Down Our Way

December 2021 & January 2022
No. 450

Parish News & Local Events

HARGRAVE AND HUXLEY CAROL SINGING



WITH THE CHESTER
SALVATION ARMY BAND

7PM THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER
AT THE INN AT HUXLEY



A Message from Laura

What is the true meaning of Christmas?
- asked a journalist to the vicar of St Martins in the Fields, London. He replied, 'The true meaning of Christmas is for Christians to tell the rest of the world that they have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas.'



Well, let's for once forget about that and focus on the wonderful, Christian principles that we find throughout our community in December and January. I love Christmas, and always have. My earliest memories of Christmas were waking up at 5am and waiting for the slowest two hours of the year until I was allowed to get up on Christmas Day at 7am, and not a second earlier. These days, my Christmas starts a lot earlier with small 'Christmas' milestones, like a festive coffee, a John Lewis advert, or some sort of resentfully-overpriced 'Christmas experience', often located in a garden centre or theme park.

Christmas can be a wonderful moment in the darkness of winter to celebrate and be with friends and family. Christmas may also be a difficult time, remembering past joys and losses, especially when they are magnified among the bright lights of celebrations that we see around us and on our screens. I think that is why I love the story of Christmas so much: a baby no one really cared about, who was worshipped by shepherds, who no one respected, who had no place to be born. I love the words of our carols that remember this story and how we reflect this in our behaviour: giving gifts; remembering members of our families we haven't seen since last Christmas; thinking of how we can be generous; getting together as a community; taking part in the living Advent calendar. Christmas is a natural time to reflect on what we have done for others and those in our families and communities. It is also the time to remember that we are the gift given

this Christmas to those around us, whether we asked to be or not. So Christmas is our chance to be God's gift. We can even continue into the new year. Happy Christmas and I hope to see you being God's gift this festive season.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help, or if you want a chat about anything, knock on the door or email me: vicarofhargraveandhuxley@gmail.com

Laura Rhodes, Vicar

Mike Whittingham, Church Warden:- 01829 770842

Malcolm Smart, Church Warden :- 01829 781563

DEFIBRILLATORS

Defibrillators are located at the following sites:

Hargrave - Alongside entrance to Church Hall

Huxley - To the right of front entrance to The Inn at Huxley

ST PETER'S CHURCH HARGRAVE

FLOWER ROTA DEC 21 & Jan 22



DECEMBER 2021

5TH Anne Smart

12TH

19TH

26TH

30TH

JANUARY 2022

2ND

9TH

16TH

23RD

If you would like to make a contribution or provide flowers for a particular date please contact Brenda Roscoe, tel. 781212 or Joan Ellams, tel. 781305.

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May the staff and volunteers of Chester and Cheshire West Foodbank wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you all for your generous support this year – without your donations we would not be able to help so many local families in crisis.

At this special time of year there are, of course, those who are really not so fortunate as we are. Those who are forced to live a very different lifestyle..... through no fault of their own. Throughout the Christmas season the foodbanks will be operating and trying to help make Christmas special for those who need our help.

If you can help by giving some 'in date' food, then it will be very gratefully received and help someone or some family to enjoy the festive season. This month we are asking especially for Christmas food..... and little extras which would make someone happy – biscuits, Christmas puddings, mince pies, chocolate – as well as toiletries for young and old.

If you can help in any way, then please make a donation in the box in St Peter's, Hargrave – or else give anything you can to any member of the congregation who will be pleased to bring it in for you.

The generosity of our parish is amazing – and we thank you sincerely for your support. May Christmas bring you joy and love.



Festive Lunch

Monday 13th December 2021

2 delicious courses

£12 per head

12:30pm

Hargrave Church Hall

Everyone welcome

Raffle IAO The Brain Tumour Charity

Bring your own tippie & glass!

Tickets available from:
Mary 07884 312949



Christmas Eve Crib Service

Hargrave Church 5:30pm

All Welcome



Midnight Communion

11.30pm St Peter's Church
Hargrave,
Christmas Eve



Huxley and Hargrave WI

The November meeting was the AGM and it was well attended. Tricia thanked the committee for their help and they were voted in en bloc to continue to serve for another year. The Treasurer, Secretary and President all gave their addresses and it was noted that we have 6 new members since our lockdown ceased.

The cancellation of the Supper Club lunch at short notice was explained and a letter has been sent to United Utilities detailing our losses and asking for some sort of compensation. The lunch was re-arranged for the 17th.

There then followed a lively talk by Rosie Lee, the reluctant shepherdess, who took over the management of the family farm when she was 42 and a banker, attended Reaseheath college for 6 years to get various qualifications and is now a successful sheep-farmer. She works with educational establishments, holds classes for children and shows and exports her Shropshire sheep, an inspirational farmer working well with the community and nature.

The walking stick competition was won by Popsie Whittingham.

The re-scheduled Supper Club Lunch on the 17th was well attended and the speaker, a mountaineer, showed photos of some of his many expeditions round the world. They all seemed to be in very inhospitable conditions and the rescue services featured quite often! Spectacular scenery and lots of snow, but pictures of frost-bitten extremities would not encourage most to ever take part in this activity - a fascinating talk and much enjoyed.

The next meeting is the **Christmas Party** to be held at Hargrave on **Wednesday 8th December at 2.00pm** when the Chinese Cultural Society will entertain us.

2022 starts with a meeting on 12th January at Huxley at 2pm and a talk on "Houseplants" with a competition for a Houseplant.

Anyone wishing to join us can contact Tricia on 01829 781255 or Connie on 01829 781298 for more info.

In the meantime we wish you all a Very Happy Christmas.

Ladies Who Lunch

The lunch in November at Willington Hall was very pleasant and raised £33.

The **December lunch on the 15th** is at The Inn at Huxley and our

Christmas special and anyone wanting to join us needs to pre-pay by the 1st December, so please contact me before then.

The lunch in January is on **Thursday 20th January** at Rowton Hall. Once again pre-payment is required by 6th January and numbers will be limited, so please get in touch asap. The new charity for 2022 will be 'The Blood Bikers'.

A big thank you to all the ladies who support these charity lunches and a Very Merry Christmas to you and yours.

For details of lunches or the charity please contact Chris Hunt on 01829 781112



'Men Who Munch'

The next 'Men who Munch' date will be on the **16th of December** at the Inn at Huxley at our usual time of 12noon. There will be no formal Christmas menu, but it will be available within the standard menu. It will give those who need a change from Christmas Fayre an opportunity to have a lighter lunch.

A note for your diaries is that we have also arranged our January 2022 Lunch for the **20th of January**. As the numbers have to be confirmed in advance, please give me a response at least a week in advance for December and by the beginning of January for the first lunch of the new year.

Nick has also reported that our last donation to the charity was £105.37. Well done guys and thank you. I look forward to seeing as many as possible at both of the next lunches.

Tom Hobbs 01829 781250 Email: Thomas.hobbs1973@gmail.com

Hargrave & Huxley Historical Group

Season's Greetings. December begins with our Christmas Dinner on 4th, a ticket only event, when Carol Greenwood will be encouraging us to Brush Up Our Shakespeare.

Normal meetings resume on **Monday, 10th January** in Hargrave Church Hall at 7.30pm. In a change to our speaker, Month Mercer will now be giving an illustrated talk about James Hampson Spencer, Chester's Forgotten Photographer. The talk will be followed by refreshments.

Membership is open to all, costing £12 for the year or non-members can pay £3.00 at the door. For further information please contact Susan at smj2908@btinternet.com



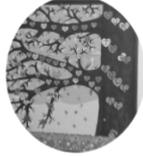
Huxley C.E. Primary School

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Support Huxley CE Primary School
12 draws over 6 days, two draws per day between 13 December and 18 December 2021. For £3 you will get entered into all 12 draws and the chance to win up to £5,000!
<https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk/support/huxley-cep-school-ch3>

Christmas Fayre CANCELLED due to unforeseen circumstances.

Christmas Shopping Online?
Why not use Easy Fundraising or Amazon Smile and support the PTA Huxley CE Primary School with no cost to you!



PTA Huxley CE Primary School is a Registered Charity



Hargrave & Huxley 2022 Calendar

Available now to order! £10 each
Great Christmas pressie.

Order by emailing hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com

Living Advent December 2021

Look out for another great set of living advent displays. We will be sending the maps out to our Happy Days mailing list. If you would like to be added to this, please email hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com

We'll also be revealing photos of each display as they are unveiled on our Facebook page, follow 'Hargrave & Huxley Happy Days'.

Burns Night Saturday 22nd January 2022



Join us for an evening of Burns Night Festivities
Huxley Village Hall, 22nd January, 7pm
£15 ticket, includes:

Traditional Burns Supper, soup, haggis neeps and tatties, cranachan, with a wee dram of whisky. (Vegetarian option available, or cottage pie for the less adventurous of you! Please request in advance). There will be a bar available to buy beer, wine and soft drinks.

Email to buy your ticket: hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com

Happy Days Charities for 2022

Every year, any profits made from Happy Days events go to St Peter's and to local good causes. We would love to hear your ideas as to which local charities you think would appreciate our support. Please send your suggestions by Fri 10th December to: hargravehuxleyhappydays@gmail.com

Huxley C.E. Primary School



Another month has flown by and what a busy one at Huxley. We have only been back from half term two weeks since my last entry to DOW but we have covered so much already. You may have seen our lovely Remembrance Day Art work at the front of the school -the children were wonderful during our minutes silence; quietly reflecting respectfully. We also have been writing about bonfire safety, exploring fairy tale characters and working hard on our number bonds and multiplication skills. Our handwriting is coming on a treat too!

In addition, we have taken part in Anti-Bullying week with this year's theme being 'One Kind Word'. In school we have mini buckets with each child's name on and children are able to pop little notes in about their friends' special qualities or just to say thank you. We know as a school community that kind words and appreciation are so powerful! We also wore Odd Socks to school one day to celebrate difference and explore what makes us all unique.

A huge thanks goes out to you, the local community, who supported the PTA event 'A Night with Bond'. I was unfortunately unable to attend but I have heard wonderful things about the night. Well done PTA- I look forward to hearing all about the grand total raised! A huge thank you also goes to The Inn at Huxley for hosting it- your support is very much appreciated.

As a school we are starting to get excited about Christmas and we look forward to starting our Christmas play which is titled 'Children of the World' and will link into our current

topic 'Wonderful World'.

We will be setting up our Christmas displays outside of school- so lots of exciting events coming up and I look forward to sharing pictures with you in the next edition of Down Our Way. Please follow our school Facebook page to see all the lovely things we get up to as a school.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas from everyone at Huxley C.E. Primary School.

Mrs Rachel Gourley

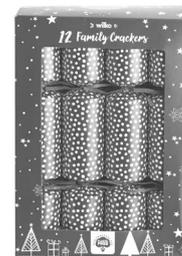


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Can you help someone who is really struggling this Christmas ?

Put something festive in the foodbank collection box in St Peter's, Hargrave - St Alban's, Tattenhall or in the supermarket. You'll make someone very happy.



THE JOSHUA TREE - COFFEE MORNING
THE PLOUGH INN CHRISTLETON
DECEMBER 3rd 11a.m.
JANUARY 7th 2022



To relax with at Christmas

1. What was the first carol played from space?
2. Which city donates a Christmas tree to Britain every year?
3. What is your birth sign if born on Christmas Day?
4. Name the wise men?
5. Who wrote the first Royal Christmas message in 1932?
6. What colour was Santa's robe before the Coca Cola Ad?
7. When do the 12 days of Christmas start?
8. What was Scrooges christian name?
9. What was suggested to use to make a 1945 Christmas pudding?
10. What is a female turkey called ?
11. Which plant based custom was started by servants in Victorian Britain?
12. How far did Mary and Joseph travel to reach Bethlehem?
13. What is the best selling Christmas single record?
14. What was taken from Westminster Abbey at Christmas 1950?
15. Which King of England was crowned on Christmas Day?
16. When did 'The Snowman' first appear on TV?

PS. What happened to the gifts brought to the baby Jesus?

As Charles Dickens wrote for Tiny Tim “God Bless us Everyone”

Thank you everyone for your charity this year, it is very much needed and gratefully received. We wish all families a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

HARGRAVE AND HUXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Hargrave and Huxley Parish Council will be on Sunday 9th January 2022 at 5.00pm in Hargrave Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Message from Tarporley Cottage Hospital

Dear Supporters

Tarporley Hospital would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their patience and on-going support during these difficult times.

We can now update you on the positive progress that's been made between the NHS, commissioners of health care provision (CCG) and Tarporley Hospital. The discussions were chaired by Edward Timpson MP.

A sustainable future for Tarporley Hospital has now been secured. Under the new agreement, from 1st January 2022 TWMH will become a rural hub for the Cheshire West Integrated Care Partnership Rapid Response and Hospital at Home teams (CWICP) allowing for closer working with GP practices and existing community teams.

The move comes as The Countess of Chester NHS Trust aims to enhance its service provision in more rural areas. The new agreement allows for people to receive care and rehabilitation in their own homes, to either avoid being admitted to hospital or to support them with an earlier discharge from hospital.

Reducing admissions and the length of stay for elderly patients within hospital allows for patients to be cared for closer to home as well as provide better support for end-of-life care. Patients will receive the necessary care at home to support them remaining or returning home more quickly. Supporting patients at home is also proven to be beneficial to patients with a cognitive impairment as it helps keep them within a familiar environment.

Additional services, such as dressing clinics, diabetic support services and facilities for minor operations, are also being considered along with out of hour GP services. We hope to make

further positive announcements regarding any additional services or prevention sessions for chronic conditions in the New Year. These are necessary changes to ensure the services are sustainable and best suited to the needs of the patient. The trustees and supporters of the hospital would like to acknowledge and thank the brilliant, dedicated and caring team of staff and volunteers for all their enduring hard work. It has been an extremely difficult and uncertain time. The team has remained professional throughout and understanding of the situation that we have found ourselves in due to the pandemic and challenges in delivering a different service model. We are proud of the work done over the years by the staff at TWMH. Many staff members have now left the facility and taken roles elsewhere in the healthcare sector, with some remaining in the short term to ensure outpatient services continue for the rest of the year. The charitable arm of Tarporley War Memorial Hospital still remains key and we recognise that it is important for the community to have involvement. As such, we would like to ask supporters to form a community-based focus group (league of friends) to discuss, fundraise and feedback to the hospital. The objectives of the charity will be to enhance patient experience and comfort and to help the team to provide services and patient care over and above that offered by the NHS.

We value the views of our supporters and would like to hear from you. In the interim, we will be setting up an online questionnaire to ascertain some ideas and feedback from the community. The questionnaire will be uploaded and available on our website from early December. We will make an announcement when it's live in the new year.

We would like to once again thank to all our supporters past and present to whom the hospital and community will be forever indebted. These are challenging times but with your continued support this cherished and much-loved hospital will continue to flourish and prosper into the future.

Yours sincerely

Board of Trustees for Tarporley War Memorial Hospital

Christmas Gifts for Save the Family

On 12 December at St. Peter's, we will hold our annual Gift Service, at which Hargrave and Huxley people have always been most generous in helping families in trouble, fleeing domestic violence, substance abuse and loss of home and safety.

In order to target gifts most accurately, we ask you to think of them going to residents at Save the Family in the following groups.

Age	Male	Female
1-2 yrs	5	-
3-6 yrs	8	7
7-10 yrs	7	10
11 yrs	2	-
Teen	3	9
Adults	3	18

Save the Family are very grateful for your continued support for those who are in most need at Christmas, and for whom you make a terrific difference. **ALSO – New This Year** – please would you donate the gifts unwrapped. They will wrap them for you, and will also be able to avoid accidental duplications, matching the individual more exactly to a gift. This should also get the best use out of what you give. Many Thanks.



THE JOSHUA TREE - COFFEE MORNING



To relax with at Christmas Answers.....

1. Jingle bells
2. Oslo Norway
3. Capricorn
4. Melchior, Casper, Balthasar
5. Rudyard Kipling
6. Green
7. Christmas Day
8. Ebenezer
9. Carrots, potatoes and gravy browning.
10. Hen
11. Kissing under the Mistletoe
12. approx 75 miles
13. White Christmas - Bing Crosby
14. The Stone of Scone
15. William the Conqueror 1066
16. 1982

Village Walk

We will not be walking in December.

Our next walk will be on Friday, **21st January**. Details of the walk to be announced. An email will be sent to regular walkers but, if you would like to join us, please, contact Jenny Hobbs for details.

Everyone is very welcome.

Tel. 01829
781250



Lovely weather for the walk on Bickerton hill.



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Christmas with Kilvert **by Ol' Buzz**

Rev Francis Kilvert (1840-79) left a remarkable diary of life as a Victorian rural clergyman.

1870 Christmas Day. It was an intense frost. I sat down in my bath upon a sheet of thick ice which broke in the middle into large pieces, whilst sharp points and jagged edges stuck round the sides of the tub like *chevaux de frise*, not particularly comforting to the naked thighs and loins, for the keen ice cut like broken glass. The ice water stung like fire and I had to collect the floating pieces of ice and pile them on a chair before I could use the sponge and then I had to thaw the sponge in my hands for it was a mass of ice. The church was very cold in spite of two roaring stove fires.

16th December 1872. Dame Matthews used to live at Home Farm, Langley Burrell. She must have lived long ago because she called the cattle 'kine'. The Dame used to sit in the chimney corner and near her chair was a little window, through which she could see all down the dairy. One evening she saw one of the farm men steal a pound of butter and put it in his hat, clapping the hat on his head. The Dame called, "John come here, I want to speak to you." John came, keeping his hat on. The Dame ordered some ale to be heated for him, and sat him down next to the roaring fire. She bade him "Drink some hot ale, for 'tis a cold night, and I would speak about the kine." Miserable John, not daring remove his hat or leave without permission, sat before the roaring fire as the melting butter trickled down his face. At length the Dame said, "Now John you may go – and I shan't charge you for the butter."

The Compliments of the Season to you all.



An Evening with Bond

A great time was had by all at our Evening with Bond event. It was lovely to see everyone and thank you Edward Timpson, MP.



Graham Lee in particular was extremely pleased with his Bond doormat!!

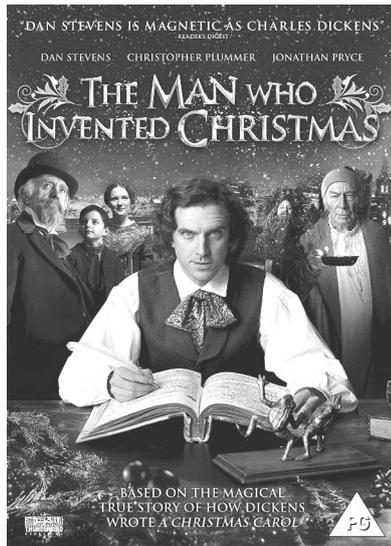
We also thoroughly enjoyed meeting and listening to Mick Miller and dancing to Off the Charts. Thank you Danny and Debbie and all the staff at The Inn at Huxley for a great night and just under a thousand pounds was raised for our great primary school.



PTA Huxley C.E. Primary School is a Registered Charity

HUXLEY VILLAGE HALL FILM NIGHT

Friday 10th December



Friday 14th January



Join us for drinks and refreshments when the doors open at 7.30pm. Please be seated for the start of the film at 8pm.

There will be an interval for refreshments and there will be Cheshire Farm Ice cream available.

Further information, Steve 781294,



CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you visited the Church Website? Please have a look and keep up to date with what's happening.

www.stpetershargrave.org.uk

ELECTRONIC DOWN OUR WAY

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EDITOR'S NOTE

All submissions for the February 22 edition to be in by **Thursday 20th January**. All submissions need to be submitted in a document as an attachment please and **not typed** directly into an email. Please note this email is **only checked** at submission time. Many thanks Beverley
Tel 781505

HandHDOW@gmail.com



DECEMBER SERVICES AT ST PETERS

Sunday 5th	09:45 Eucharist CW
2nd Sunday Of Advent	E Thornton-Firkin (R&S) S Williams (S) Intercessions: J Wilson
Sunday 12th	09:45 Family Eucharist CW - Gift Service
3rd Sunday Of Advent	B Burgess (R) J Burgess (S) Intercessions: B Burgess
Thursday 16th	19:00 Carol Singing with Salvation Army Band at The Inn at Huxley
Sunday 19th	09:45 Eucharist CW
4th Sunday Of Advent	M Strefford (R) A Smart (S) Intercessions: Young People 18:30 Nine Lessons and Carols
Friday 24th	17:30 Crib Service
Christmas Eve	23:30 Midnight Eucharist
Saturday 25th	09:45 Family Eucharist CW
Christmas Day	

JANUARY SERVICES AT ST PETERS

Sunday 2nd	09:45 Eucharist CW
Epiphany	A Roberts (R) D Roberts (S) J Ankers (S) Intercessions: D Roberts
Sunday 9th	09:45 Eucharist CW
Baptism of Christ	R Vincent (R&S) E Thornton-Firkin (S) Intercessions: E Thornton-Firkin
Sunday 16th	09:45 Family Eucharist CW
Plough Sunday	M Smart (R&S) A Smart (S) Intercessions: Young People
Sunday 23rd	09:45 Eucharist CW
3rd Epiphany	B Burgess (R&S) J Burgess (S) Intercessions: J Burgess
Sunday 30th	09:45 Eucharist CW
Candelmas	M Whittingham (R&S) C Houlbrooke (S) Intercessions: H Johnson

DECEMBER DATES FOR DIARY

3rd Pg 17	11:00am Joshua Tree Coffee Morning	The Plough Christleton
4th Pg 10	6:30 for 7:00pm Hargrave and Huxley Historical Group	Hargrave Church Hall
8th Pg 8	2:00pm WI Christmas Party	Hargrave Church Hall
10th Pg 25	7:30pm Huxley Film Night "The Man Who Invented Christmas"	Huxley Village Hall
13th Pg 6	12:30pm Festive Lunch	Hargrave Church Hall
15th Pg 9	12:00 noon Ladies Who Lunch	The Inn at Huxley
16th Pg 9	12:00 noon Men Who Munch	The Inn at Huxley

JANUARY DATE FOR DIARY

7th Pg 17	11:00am Joshua Tree Coffee Morning	The Plough Christleton
9th Pg 18	5:00pm Hargrave and Huxley Parish Council	Hargrave Church Hall
10th Pg 10	7:30pm Hargrave and Huxley Historical Group	Hargrave Church Hall
12th Pg 8	2:00pm WI	Huxley Village Hall
14th Pg 25	7:30pm Huxley Film Night "No Time To Die"	Huxley Village Hall
16th	11:00am PCC	Hargrave Church Hall
20th Pg 9	12:00 noon Ladies Who Lunch	Rowton Hall
20th Pg 9	12:00 noon Men Who Munch	The Inn at Huxley
20th Pg 26	Parish News Deadline	
21st Pg 21	9:30am Village Walk	TBA
22nd Pg 13	7:00pm Burns Night	Huxley Village Hall