



making Christ known



# Christmas Parish Magazine 2016

My dear friends,

*That yongë child when it gan weep  
With song she lulled him asleep:  
That was so sweet a melody  
It passed alle minstrelsy.*

*The nightingalë sang also:  
Her song is hoarse and nought thereto:  
Whoso attendeth to her song  
and leaveth the first then doth he wrong.*



This little poem dating from perhaps the 14<sup>th</sup> Century takes us to the cradle in Bethlehem like no other text for me. It was one of those Early and Middle English poems set by Benjamin Britten in his *Ceremony of Carols* – a work written when he was crossing the Atlantic during the Second World War. If you have a chance, do listen to *That yongë child* – there are plenty of YouTube performances to hand!

Britten sets the words with extraordinary subtlety, capturing the sense that Mary's song hints at the knowledge of how Jesus will most fully reveal God's love for each of us - self-giving love revealed through Passion, Death and Resurrection. This perhaps leads us to consider Christmas in a slightly different way than as a purely commercial operation for retailers world wide. Don't get me wrong. I am as up for tinsel as anyone! However, at the centre of our celebration is the true cause for joy: that young child - held at the breast of a young (and probably very frightened) Jewish girl with her husband - living in uncertain times with danger at hand. Look at the Middle East today and you will find similar families finding rest where they can as they flee from danger.

Christmas is celebrated as a time of joy throughout the whole world, and I believe that placing Jesus at the heart of it gives it true meaning; revealing how greatly we are cherished by the creator of all. About 180 years after Jesus was born, an early Church leader, Melito of Sardis, wrote:

*He was borne by Mary and clothed with God ... appearing as a child he did not deny the eternity of his nature ... as human himself needing nourishment, yet as God ceaselessly nourishing the world. He stood before Pilate and sat by the Father. He hung on the cross and supported the universe.*

As a friend said, this is an extraordinary truth. But then God's truth is extraordinary because it is very deep and very puzzling - and also shockingly simple. At Christmas, I hope that we won't lose the simplicity because of the puzzle ... neither lose the depth because of the simplicity. Through the birth and life of Jesus, God intimately shares our humanity and desires to deepen that relationship through Jesus Christ who encompasses the whole of creation as 'The Word made Flesh' (*John 1: 14*).

My friends, at this Christmastide know that whatever your situation, you are greatly loved.

With love and blessings,  
Michael



## **FROM THE VICAR'S DESK**

**FREE CONCERT AT HOLY TRINITY** On **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30 p.m.** students from Ardingly College Junior School Music Department will be presenting a free concert at the church. Please do support these young talented musicians. All are welcome.

## **CHRISTMAS AT HOLY TRINITY**

You will find details in the magazine of all that is taking place during the period leading up to Christmas including all our treasured traditions –

### **The Christmas Tree Festival (9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> December)**

**The Family Carol Service** and **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December** (9.45 & 6.00 p.m. respectively).

On Christmas Eve, the two **Crib Services** (2.30 & 4.30 p.m.) together with the **Stable Service** in the Old School also at 4.30 p.m. (Please note that these are all ticketed - but free - obtainable from the Church Office).

**Midnight Mass** starts at **11.15 p.m.**

On **Christmas Day** there will be **Holy Communion** (BCP) at **8.00 a.m.** and the **Family Eucharist** with carols at **9.45 a.m.**

### **THE CUCKFIELD NATIVITY - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 6.00 p.m**

Join us again as we journey from the church, hearing the Christmas Story as we travel through the churchyard and area around the church, singing carols, meeting Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, Fluffy the real sheep and kings before we find the Holy Family in the Old School and enjoy mulled wine, etc. Bring a torch. It is probably best to wrap up warm as well!

**THE NAMING OF JESUS** We shall be keeping this ancient feast on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017** with services at **8.00 a.m. and 9.45 a.m.** There will be no Evensong that day.

**EPIPHANY** We shall be keeping the Feast of the Epiphany on **Sunday 8th January 2017**. Please note that the services will follow the normal First Sunday pattern: **8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, 9.45 a.m. Family Service, 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion and 6.00 p.m. Evensong**

**If you are new or (re)visiting.....**please do make yourselves known to me, any of the church officers or welcoming team. It is always my privilege to visit people, so please do contact me either through Gill in the office (01444-456461) or at the Vicarage (01444-454007). If you speak to me at the church door I might forget, so do either phone or write a note!

**Finally ...** I want to thank you all for the wonderful way in which you have encouraged me in my ministry in Cuckfield. In addition, I was greatly touched by the support you gave me during my illness over the summer. It is a very great privilege to serve both the church and community as Vicar, and I look forward to 2017 with continuing joy in our shared journey.

**A very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year to all**

*Michael*

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## **THE PARISH MAGAZINE**

A very happy and blessed Christmas to all our readers from the Editorial Team with thanks for all your contributions over 2016. We take a break during January, but shall be back in the New Year with the February edition: please email your copy in Word format to:

**duty-editor@holytrinitycuckfield.org**

Mail to this address will forward to the editor for the month, and replies to you will come from the editor for the month.

Copy date for the **FEBRUARY edition** of the magazine is no later than

**MONDAY 9th JANUARY, 2017**

*The Editorial Team*

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# The Cuckfield Nativity



Friday, 16<sup>th</sup>  
December  
at  
6.00 p.m.

Join us again as we journey from the church, hearing the Christmas Story, as we travel through the churchyard and area around the church, singing carols, meeting Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, Fluffy the (real!) sheep and the Kings before we find the Holy Family in the Old School and enjoy mulled wine, etc.

*Bring the family,  
bring your voice,  
bring torches  
and  
wrap up warm!*



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# Christmas Tree Festival



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11.30 – 8.00 p.m.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

11.30 – 6.30 p.m.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

11.30 – 5.30 p.m.



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EST. 1982

# HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS

*Brian Cutler reviews Cuckfield Dramatic Society's autumn production 'On Golden Pond':*

We all dream. We all dream when we are asleep of course, even if we rarely remember such dreams. But we also dream at other times, about how life might be, about how life used to be and about how life might have been if ... Norman and Ethel Thayer, the central characters in Ernest Thompson's 1979 play *On Golden Pond*, dream. Not necessarily the same dream. Ethel (*Chrys Tarr*) tries to recapture her youth at their holiday home on the shores of a lake in New England, revisiting her childhood doll, Elmer, and entertaining the post boy, Charlie Martin (*Paul Ruse*), whom she and Norman have known since his childhood. Norman (*Rick Farmer*), on the other hand, betraying both his failing memory and pessimistic outlook on life, dreams of an early opportunity to 'shuffle off this mortal coil'.

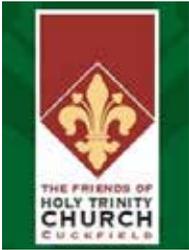
Into this relatively stable mix breezes Norman and Ethel's daughter Chelsea (*Sophie Bradshaw*), with her new fiancé Bill Ray (*Peter Bowman*) and his teenage son Billy Ray, Jr. (*Anton Smith*). Chelsea has always had a poor relationship with her father, seeing herself as failing his expectations, particularly in not being a boy, a problem that neither time nor distance appears to have mellowed. It is agreed that Billy will remain in New England whilst father and step mother explore Europe. Billy and Norman become good mates as they fish and talk about the old days, so much so that when Chelsea returns, now married, she finds it much easier to relate to her father, and even invite Norman and Ethel to her home on the West Coast.

Thompson's dialogue is gentle, subtle and understated, yet amusing and engaging. Despite the 37 years since it was written it is still relevant, exploring themes such as the denial of change, the problems of ageing and of generational difference. Harriett Sheldon's production brings the best out of her talented troupe of actors, moulding them into an integrated performance that both entertains and gently challenges. It would be invidious to highlight anyone in particular, although it was delightful to have a young actor from Warden Park joining the company with such confidence!

I did not see the film, but I understand that the most memorable feature was the scenery. If that was so, more's the pity. The essence of the play is in the dialogue and with the Golden Pond always off stage - and unseen - it remains an archetype for our dreams!

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## A VERY SPECIAL WAY FOR YOU TO BECOME PART OF THE HISTORY OF CUCKFIELD



Cuckfield is one of the oldest and most distinguished villages in Sussex and at its centre is Holy Trinity Church which has its own proud history going back more than nine hundred years. The building is a superb example of Sussex's architectural heritage and is considered one of the finest church buildings in Southern England. In particular, the unique Victorian painted ceiling and the glorious stained-glass windows are examples of the heritage of craftsmanship and worship embodied in the church building. Indeed, it has been bestowed with, not one, but two prestigious Sussex Heritage Trust awards in the last ten years.

The church is in great demand throughout the year to celebrate the happiness of weddings and baptisms and, of course, as a place to come together to mourn the loss of a loved one. It is also a place to hear great music, view art, listen to poetry, as well as to dance and sing, and where our Primary School children celebrate each conclusion of term. In fact, it sits at the heart of our village with a welcome for us all to appreciate and use.

Whether you are a churchgoer or not, a warm invitation is extended to you to become a ***Friend of Holy Trinity Church*** and thereby to have your name recorded in the history of this beautiful and important building. **The Friends sole aim is to create social occasions that will bring together people who care enough about the building to ensure that it is preserved for future generations to enjoy.**

During the summer an invitation to join was delivered to every household in Cuckfield resulting in many new members. If you didn't get the chance to respond and would now like to join our

growing numbers, please contact me by phone or email and I will be delighted to provide you with an application form - they can also be collected from the Church. There is no joining fee and the annual subscription is only £20 (£30 for a couple).

As a Friend you will have the opportunity to meet many of the people who live and work in the vicinity. Our Friends' group has proved to be a great catalyst for bringing the community together and in forging new friendships among the people of Cuckfield.

**Paul Goldfinch**

*Chairman/Friends of Holy Trinity Church Cuckfield*

Tel 01444-882649

PaulBGoldfinch@gmail.com

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## **HOLY TRINITY, CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES**

Are you part of a young family? Do you have grandchildren? Are you a young person? Do you worry about young people and their future? If so we would like to hear from you.

The church's unique selling point is the Christian faith, something that takes many different forms for individuals and groups. The key question we would like you to think about is "Does what we do at Holy Trinity help you and your family and friends follow Jesus?" Could we do things differently to make it easier or more attractive?

The way the church has followed Jesus has changed hugely over the years as society and culture have changed. Religious faith is a deeply personal thing and it is important to many. What would help you now to deepen your faith and help your children get to know Jesus? What could we at Holy Trinity do differently?

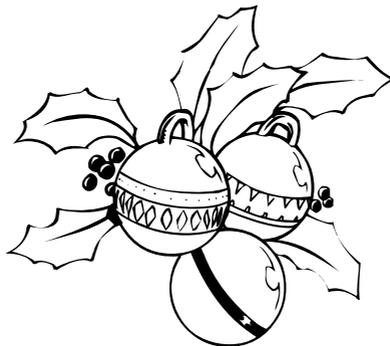
Life is much faster now and there is more choice. Weekends have changed with commitments to sport, travel and families. One consequence is that Sunday morning may not be the best time for you. Is there a better time for you? What kind of services would be best? Would you prefer to listen or be part of a conversation? Breakfast during the service?

If there are things that make church difficult for you and your friends let us know. If you think that there are changes that would make doing church easier, please tell us. For example, weekend or weekday? Morning, lunchtime, late afternoon? Coffee? Food? With or without children?

We would like to hear from everyone, people who feel part of the church, those who would like to feel part of the church but find that there are difficulties that prevent them and those who see themselves outside the church and would like to tell us what might draw them in.

You can respond by emailing Jonathan at [hirsuteshepehrd1@yahoo.com](mailto:hirsuteshepehrd1@yahoo.com) You could also speak to any of the group members or leave your written response in the B mail box at the back of the church or in the church office. If you would prefer to comment anonymously that is fine.

The members of the review group are Ros Thunder, Joyce Sewell-Rutter, Hilary Turner-King, Robyn Brotherton Smith, Tracy Humphreys, Philip Richings, Rod Montague, and Jonathan Berry.



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A vacancy arises in the New Year on the Board of Trustees for the Cuckfield Cottage Homes Trust.

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Time commitment would be three formal Board meetings a year, together with occasional support to the Estates Trustees in the supervision of maintenance projects.

Candidates should apply in the first instance to:  
Simon Rothern,  
Clerk to the Trustees, at  
[simon.rothon@gmail.com](mailto:simon.rothon@gmail.com)

## LITTLE ONES SERVICE

As the “December Service” is being held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, the next service will be on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January at 11 a.m., “behind the organ”. There will be stories and songs and refreshments for parents and their pre-school children – all are welcome. Contact Catherine Snashall for further information (01444 454712 and 07775 932823).

## SAMARA'S AID APPEAL

**WHEN:** Now for delivery in January

**WHAT:** Care packs

**HOW:** Lists are available for NEW items and banana boxes from Ros Longfield on 01444-457585

**WHY:** With more and more displaced people from Mosul and Aleppo, the need is greater than ever.

During the time before delivery we should be able to source good deals in the stores. You, or a group of friends, may like to fill a box with the items on the list which Ros will keep till the New Year. Thank you so much.

*Ros Longfield*



# FSW UPDATE



As ever, we were so grateful for help given by Parishes and individuals throughout 2016 in our work with vulnerable children and families in Sussex. FSW helped 130 families throughout East & West Sussex. As always, this was one-to-one, long-term support, helping families to recover from crisis and get back on their feet. Play workers and Volunteers also ran activities such as after-school clubs and we arranged for families to have short holidays, some for the first time in their lives.

The need for FSW's help grows so, as we approach Christmas, please remember local families in need, through prayer and in more practical ways if you can. To help our families have the best Christmas possible and a good start to 2017, consider how you could help FSW this Advent.

**WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS** – If you are in receipt of a payment, but do not feel you need it, could you contribute part or all the payment to FSW? We use the payment to keep children safe and warm throughout the year.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS** – Many churches collect toys and food for FSW families during Advent. Could your Church help? We accept new toys and games, new clothing, small gifts for parents and non-perishable Christmas Food. **For more details, call 01273-832963**

**FSW Advent Jam Jar** – Find an empty jam jar, kids could decorate the jar, and each day through Advent pop a coin in the jar for FSW. After Christmas donate the amount in the jar to FSW.

Please make cheques payable **to CDAFSW** and post to Family Support Work, Garton House, 22 Stanford Avenue, Brighton BN1 6AA

[www.familysupportwork.org](http://www.familysupportwork.org)

**'The Children's Charity of Sussex'**  
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# MOTHERS' UNION OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting in October was great fun, stimulated by Ros in her very capable and lively manner. The topic was World War II. She asked those of us old enough to share any memories we had of the War, and the rest of the group then had to guess in which year the event had occurred. Some lively discussion followed, and some very interesting memories emerged. Most of us were of an age that could recall some events even though we were very young at the time. There were a couple of stories that were particularly interesting:

The first was from a member who remembered her evacuation from London. She was living in Battersea at the time and remembers there was first a coach trip to Victoria Station from school. Then there was a train ride to Haywards Heath. The evacuees were taken from the station to what was then Griffin's Garage. The garage is still in the same place, if now under a different name. She was evacuated with her two sisters, her mother and two babies. Because there were so many of them, they were not able to be accommodated together, and so had to be split up. She and her sister went to one family, and her mother and the two babies were sent elsewhere. They were close by, but not allowed to enter the other houses, and so had to say good night at the door. The two sisters were sent to St Wilfrid's School, then housed in a working men's club, which was she says awful. Later, the school went elsewhere. Those memories were obviously horrific to a young child, which is why she still has such vivid memories. We reckoned that it would have been 1940, but the storyteller said that it was more likely to have been 1939.

The second story that I found most interesting was from a member who lived in Cuckfield. She remembers that the children were told not to touch or pick up anything because it might be dangerous. They were told that certain things could be contained in pens and pencils even. As the children walked along Courtmead Road to school, she saw something shiny in the grass, but, remembering what she had been told, she said to her sister that they must not pick it up and so went on by. The

*(continued on page 21)*



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Funeral Plans 



*(continued from page 18)*

object was a valuable necklace made of moonstones and with a platinum clasp and was reported by the owner as lost. Her honesty made her own up at school that she had seen it, and it resulted in her being questioned about it in front of the whole school and asked why she had not reported it when she saw it. She remembers this questioning as a most terrible experience.

Among other people's wartime reminiscences were ration books, gas masks, sirens and air raid shelters in which there was quite a bit of socialising and sharing of food. Some had memories of fathers joining up and being posted overseas, and in particular one in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

We were all a bit vague about dates, and so they might not have been quite accurate, but the main idea was to recall the war years and share the memories of 1939-45 and beyond.

*Shirley Rawlins and Heather Hollis*

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## **CUCKFIELD LADIES GROUP**

In October, Evonne Gubbin kindly invited us to her new home in Tower Close. Having been just decorated and alterations completed, we could see she had really settled in. It was a beautiful day and coffee was served indoors and outside. We wish her many happy years ahead in her comfortable home.

We enjoyed our annual film evening at Juliet Middleton's house. We watched 'Testament of Youth', which had been chosen for last year but due to a slight slip –up we were unable to see the whole story! This year it all went smoothly.

Next will be the Christmas meal in Bolney.

*Jan Bryan*

# WHAT'S ON AT THE CATHEDRAL



## **CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERTS TUESDAYS, 1.10 P.M. – 2.00 P.M.**

- 10th January** Lynden Cranham and Richard Barnes *Cello and Piano*
- 17th January** Tom Winpenny *Organ*
- 24th January** Chichester String Ensemble
- 31st January** An-Ting Chang *Piano*
- 7th February** Pavlos Carvalho and Warren Mailley-Smith *Cello and Piano*

**Bring your sandwiches. Coffee provided.**

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# FROM CUCKFIELD MAGAZINE DECEMBER 1916

## PARISH NOTES

**IN MEMORIAM** – On the Eve of All Saints' Day we laid to rest the mortal remains of Mrs. Best, of Harvest Hill, who died at the advanced age of 98 years. Born within three years of the Battle of Waterloo, which completed the overthrow of the great Napoleon, she lived in the reigns of no less than six sovereigns and she died at the time when her country was engaged in the world-wide war against the Central Powers of Europe. She saw many remarkable changes and she had many interesting reminiscences...

**EHE NATIONAL MISSION** – The weather on the first Sunday was about as bad as it could be and on some of the other days it was not very favourable, but the only thing we had to abandon was the Procession and Open-Air Service, and the attendance at the services was very good. We wish to express our sincere appreciation of the very sympathetic attitude towards the National Mission adopted by our non-conformist friends.

**THE RED CROSS – from Mrs Cooper:** We sent up to the General Fund for the Red Cross Society £43 12s. 1d. as our contribution for "Our Day." Thanks to the Concert organised by the same kind friends on the evening before "Our Day", our local Hospital benefited to the extent of £15 18s. 2d. The latter sum was specially valuable just now as the expenses of the Hospital have, during the last three months, risen considerably. The conveyance of patients to and from the station is one great extra expense – formerly we constantly, through the kindness of Mrs. Reid, had the use of her motor ambulance. Another great expense is the constant employment of a trained night nurse, as it has become impossible for our V.A.D. workers to continue their work. May I also most heartily thank those who, for nearly two years, have so generously helped us with laundry work – and still continue to do so. It is an immense weekly saving to the funds. We are quite ready to receive others in to this work if they are ready to come. Mary A. Cooper. Tentercroft.

**ROLL OF HONOUR** – After a long time of anxious suspense Mrs. Keep has received through the Red Cross the sad news that her husband, **Lance-Corporal Albert Keep**, was killed in

action on July 23rd. We can assure her that she has the sincere sympathy of us all in her sorrow.

**Lieut. H. K. Newman** is now home on sick leave after an attack of influenza and trench fever; **Lance-Corporal A. J. Ballard** is gradually recovering from his severe wound and has also been home for a short time. **Private Alec Sloan** has now received his discharge from the Army, but we hope that he will in time regain his health.

**THE CLERGY** – The Vicar is glad to say that he hopes very soon to have the help of a second Assistant Curate. On St. Thomas' Day Mr. C. J. B. Webb will be ordained Deacon in Chichester Cathedral, and he will at once join our staff, though he will continue to live at Haywards Heath.

**BOYS' CLUB AND CARPENTERING CLASSES** – An excellent start has been made with a Club for the boys of our Parish. All members are expected to attend a Bible Class, the day and hour for which will shortly be fixed. The Club is held, at present, on Tuesdays, from 7-9 p.m., in the Church Room, but we hope (if one or two of the men of the Parish will help us by acting as supervisors) to hold it on at least one other night in the week. Boys over 14 years of age may join. The subscription is 1d. a week. The Carpentering Classes are held on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Hall behind the White Hart Hotel, kindly lent at a nominal sum by Mrs. Roffey. Mr. A. Robinson has nobly offered to act as instructor. **Hand Bells** – Mr. Hounsell has started a Class for instruction in hand bell ringing for some of the boys of the Parish. We wish him every success in his endeavour.

**THE MAGAZINE** – The circulation of the Parish Magazine is now about 400 a month. Vicar hopes that there will be a number of new subscribers in the coming year. The price is now only a penny a month, and owing to this decrease in the cost and the increase in the printer's bill it is not at present by any means a paying concern, in spite of the receipts from advertisements, but it is a very useful part of the parish organization.

**CHRISTMAS NOTICES** – Christmas will again find us engaged in this terrible war which is bringing distress and sorrow to so

## MAP OF CUCKFIELD

Large scale, easy to read Ordnance Survey map of Cuckfield & Balcombe area with street maps & local info. £9.75 from **Cuckfield Pantry**, **Balcombe Stores** and online at [www.parishmaps.co.uk](http://www.parishmaps.co.uk)

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many thousands. It cannot be in any way a merry Christmas to any of us, but still we may hope that there will be an element of happiness in it for us all. A full list of the services to be held at the Parish Church and also at the Mission Churches at Ansty and Brook Street will be issued in due course. At the Parish Church there will be on Christmas Day Celebrations of Holy Communion at 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and at noon. Morning Prayer will be as usual at 11 a.m., and at 3.30 p.m. there will be Evensong with a short address and carols by the children.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE** – The last Sunday in the year will be observed throughout the country as a day of Intercession in connection with the war. Details will be issued later on. In addition to the other services a Watch Night Service will be held, beginning at 11.20 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS AND OUR SOLDIERS** – The donations placed in the box in the porch for Christmas Puddings for our Soldiers at the Front amounted to £2 10s. This has been sent to the "Daily Telegraph Shilling Fund," with the request that it may be allocated to a Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment.



**Sussex**  
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## **EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE FESTIVE PSYCHOPATH**

Americans have chosen to align themselves with a mighty eagle. India have elected the elegant peacock. But we've voted for a territorial ball of anger as our national bird. So, what is it about the robin that we find so endearing?

That famous orange-red breast, a flaming flash of feathers in a bland back garden of blackbirds, sparrows and starlings is certainly striking. Those disproportionately large eyes give robins a cute 'face' (but are useful for a bird which hunts for beetles and worms under bushes in low light levels). They're cheeky little beggars. As we kneel weeding in the mud they'll

hop along hoping for a castaway worm. Elsewhere in Europe robins avoid human contact and inhabit dark forests where they follow feeding boars as they dig in the soil. To a robin we're just big pigs in gardening gloves.

Surely the greatest coup that the robin has pulled off is cornering the lucrative Christmas market - especially considering the only other bird we associate with Christmas is beheaded and stuffed into an oven at Gas Mark 4. This Christmas connection is linked to the red tunic plumage of Victorian postmen. Robins were depicted as card-carrying postmen on the earliest Christmas cards and since then have joined Santa and snowmen as Christmas A-listers.

Attractive, friendly and festive - everyone loves a robin. Well everyone it seems apart from other robins. Robins hate other robins. They're highly territorial and, once invisible boundaries have been established, robins will rule their kingdom like feathered Fuhrers. They'll sing their washing-line war cries from dawn to dusk or patrol the garden noisily tick-tick-tick-ing like tiny time bombs. Female robins are just as tyrannical and will also sing and scuffle - unusual amongst female birds. Robins will fight off other birds - no matter what colour; but when a robin sees red it sees red. Robins will peck, scratch, batter and kick any other robin that puts as much as a feather across the line. Behind that red breast beats the black heart of a ruthless killing machine. Fatalities are common.

For the past few months this front lawn turf war has intensified but around Christmas there are subtle signs of a ceasefire. The song of the robin becomes more hopeful and in the bleak midwinter something remarkable happens; robins unexpectedly and temporarily fall in love. For a brief period courting couples can be seen feeding alongside each other. As we enter the New Year this peace agreement ends and it's back to brutal business as usual. But these Christmas couples are now 'engaged' and will re-unite to form a family in the spring.

For robins Christmas is a time for peace, hope and worms. Here's hoping you have a similar Christmas full of peace and hope. And, as for the worms - I'm sure we'll all open a whole new can in 2017.

*Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust*  
[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)

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# GARDEN NOTES

As the wind swung round to the north at the beginning of November, so came the first frosts and a very wintry feel for bonfire night. Leaves fell in big flurries ending the beautiful autumn colours we have had this year. The dry autumn has made gardening easier: grass mown and tidy for the winter; digging over of borders and veg 'patches' possible without having to remove wet clods of dirt from one's boots; dry leaves to rake, so much lighter than soggy ones.

Gardening in December is usually the essentials, with daylength at a minimum and Christmas preparations to make.

Jobs include cutting down dead growth of herbaceous plants, brushing paths and treating with an anti-algal liquid, cleaning garden tools (and oiling) to minimise rust over the winter, booking your mower in for a service and other petrol driven machinery like strimmers and hedge cutters.

Take a stroll around the garden checking fences, stakes, greenhouses and heaters if you have them, and roll up fruit cage top netting. Plant shallots and garlic - or be lazy and leave till early February as we do! Wash the glass of greenhouses to allow more winter sun to penetrate if you have plants overwintered in them and ventilate on sunny days to reduce humidity. Check stored fruit and veg (e.g., potatoes, onions, squashes) for rotten ones and keep an eye on unprotected/un-netted brassicas (kale, sprouts, etc.) for hungry pigeons who will decimate your crop and leave unpleasant deposits on what remains.

Autumn sown broad beans and sweet peas are best kept in a cold frame over winter as very wet or frozen soil tends to cause damping off. Order seeds for next year but remember mice love to find a warm shed or greenhouse to winter in and munch their way through half opened seed packets so watch out for their presence. Mice also like plastic plant pots for nesting in especially if stacked in a cardboard box - extra cosy! Old metal cake or biscuit tins are the best place for seeds provided they are stored out of the sunlight.

Water poinsettias and azaleas well but cyclamen and Amaryllis more sparingly, standing them in a saucer of water to keep their foliage dry. Keep them in a cool (60-65 F/16-18C) position but not one where the temperature plummets at night, e.g., not next to a draughty single glazed window with no heat source nearby. Like us they do not appreciate wide temperature fluctuations. Bring hyacinths and paperwhite narcissi potted for forcing into the light to green up and flower for Christmas.

And finally keep a shovel or spade handy for snow clearance in case we have a surprise fall before Christmas!

*Lindsay Shurvall*



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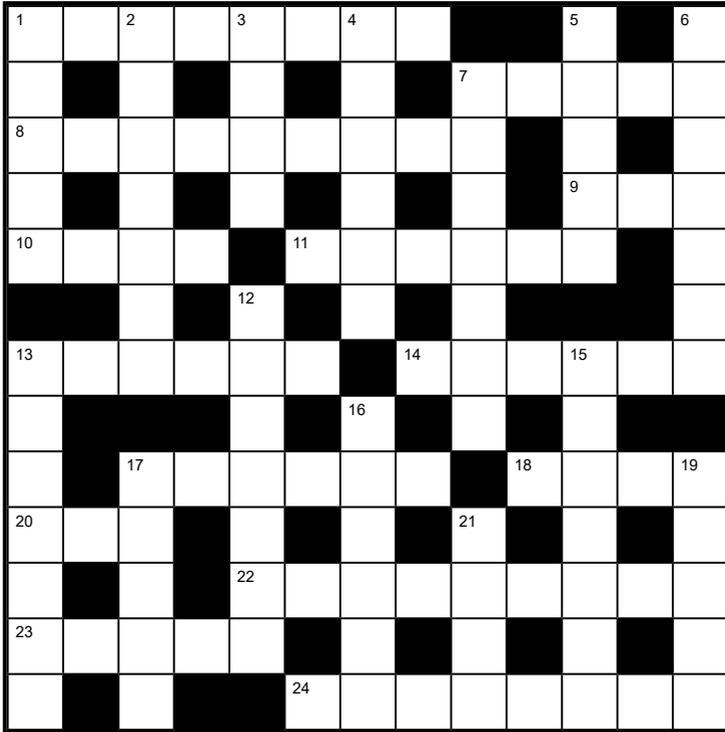
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# December Crossword



**ACROSS:**

- 1 [& 3 DOWN] SEASONAL WISHES (5.3.4)
- 7. HEAD OF A 5 DOWN (5)
- 8. TESTING PERIOD(9)
- 9 RIVER (3)
- 10 LONDON AREA (4)
- 11. IN A FUTILE FASHION (6)
- 13. RECITE (6)
- 14. ZAROASTRIAN (6)
- 17. BIBLICAL MONEY (6)
- 18. FORMAL RELIGIOUS PRACTICE (4)
- 20. TEAR (3)
- 22. SACRED WRITINGS (9)
- 23. CROSS (5)
- 24. PERSONALITY (8)

**DOWN:**

- 1. WISHES (5)
- 2. HE SPREAD GOD’S WORD (7)
- 3. SEE 1 ACROSS
- 4. A 2 DOWN (6)
- 5. DWELLING FOR MONKS OR NUNS (5)
- 6. SEEN ON A CHURCH (7)
- 7. BIBLICAL CHARACTER (7)
- 12. HOLY SMOKE (7)
- 13. MUSIC AT THE BEGINNING OF A SERVICE (7)
- 15. THEY STIR THE SENSES (7)
- 16. FELT ANXIETY (6)
- 17. UTTER (5)
- 19. MOURNFUL POEM (5)
- 21. ABOVE AND TOUCHING (4)

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# What's on Around Cuckfield...

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1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month from 7 to 9pm.  
Held at "Age Concern" (adjacent to Clair Hall),  
Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath.  
For further details contact The Alzheimers Society on  
01403 750485 or 01403 213017 (Monday to Friday)

**Friendship Club  
Ansty Village Hall**

2.30 to 4pm on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in month. Please come, have  
a cuppa and cake and a natter. Enquiries 413061.

**Ansty Village Hall**

CARD & TABLE GAMES. The third Thursday of the  
month at Ansty Village Hall, from 2 – 4 including tea  
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**Wednesday  
14 December  
Ansty Garden Club**

**CHRISTMAS SUPPER**

Ansty Garden Club meets in the Village Hall at 7.45pm  
on the last Wednesday of the month with a varied  
programme of events including speakers, outings, plant  
sales etc. Members' subscription is £8 per year. Visitors  
are charged £2 per evening visit. Refreshments and raffle  
at small cost. New members always welcome. For more  
details contact Chairperson : Derry Bailleaux or  
Secretary: Suzanne Mace – 01444 459151

**Wednesday  
25 January  
Ansty Garden Club**

Wine & Cheese Evening at which we welcome anyone  
who is thinking of joining the club.  
Please see above for Club details.

**ANSWERS TO DECEMBER CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS:**

1&3 DOWN: HAPPY NEW YEAR; 7. ABBOT; 8. PROBATION; 9. EXE; 10. SOHO;  
11. VAINLY; 13. INTONE; 14. PARSEE; 17. SHEKEL; 18. RITE; 20. RIP;  
22. SCRIPTURE; 23. IRATE; 24. IDENTITY

**DOWN:**

1. HOPES; 2. PROPHET; 3. SEE 1 ACROSS; 4. ELIJAH; 5. ABBEY; 6. STEEPLE;  
7. ANANIAS; 12. INCENSE; 13. INTROIT; 15. STIMULI; 16. FEARED; 17. SPEAK;  
19. ELEGY; 21. UPON

The master pages (including adverts) used to print this magazine can be  
viewed at [www.holytrinitycuckfield.org/directory/parish-magazine/](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org/directory/parish-magazine/)

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# Regular Events

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<b>Bellringers</b>	Friday evenings 7.45–9.15pm.
<b>Choir</b>	Choir practice Friday evenings 7.15–8.15pm. (There are no practices during August)
<b>InSpire Youth Club</b>	Friday evenings (term time only) in the Old School (South Door). Years 5-7 from 6.45 - 8pm. Year 8 and above from 8.15 - 9.30pm £1 subs, activities, games, friendship and much more.
<b>Holy Trinity Mens Group</b>	No Meeting in December Wednesday 18th January 8pm – Curry at The Whyte Harte For more information contact Clive Simmonds 01444 454481 or email: clivesimmonds@btinternet.com
<b>Home Groups</b>	<i>Alternate Thursday Evenings (2 groups), 8pm</i> call Clive & Isobel Simmonds 01444 454481 <b>Tuesday, 8.00pm (in term time).</b> David and Ros Thunder, Wayfarers, South Street, Tel. 417103.
<b>Prayer Group</b>	<i>20 December 10am in The Lady Chapel 17 January 2017 10am in the Lady Chapel Tel. Margaret Walker 454272.</i>
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Tuesday 13 December 12noon – Christmas Lunch at Wayfarers Tuesday 10 January 10am OSCR – New Year, New Mothers' Union Please contact Ros Thunder 417103 for more details
<b>Little Ones Church Service</b>	First Tuesday of the month at 11am. Come for a story, some songs and a prayer. All welcome. Please contact Catherine Snashall for more details 01444 454712 or 07775932823. <b>Please Note Little Ones Service in January 2017 will be on the second Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 11am.</b>

Items carried in the Cuckfield Parish Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Holy Trinity PCC, the Vicar or the Editorial Team. The Editorial Team reserves the right to decline to publish any item or to amend or shorten material. For that reason we do not accept copy in PDF or file formats other than Word.

*We are very pleased that the parish magazine is seen as a good vehicle for advertising by local traders and others but readers must accept that the Editors do not vouch for or in any way warrant the individuals, organisations, products or services advertised here.*

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# Regular Events (continued)

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**Royal British Legion (Women's Section)**     *14 December – Christmas Party*  
*No meeting in January*  
*Meetings take place at 2.30pm in The Old School, Cuckfield*

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**Cuckfield Crafts and Market**     For information or to book contact Beverley Smith  
01444 440274 or Jane Ravell 01444 451454

**Cuckfield Local Market**     9.30am to 12.30pm. Food Market at The Talbot, High Street, Cuckfield

---

**Cuckfield Evening Flower Club**     2 December – Gill Homer 'Countdown to Christmas'  
No meeting in January

---

**Cuckfield Ladies Group**     Tuesday 6 December – 12.30pm Christmas Lunch at The Eight Bells, Bolney  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 8pm – Games Evening at Gill Butterworth's (NB 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday).  
Please contact Jan Bryan (414891) for more details.

---

**Solo Lunch**     The next Solo Lunch will be on Sunday 4 December  
Tickets are be available from the church office Cost £5.  
January Solo Lunch will be on Sunday 8 January.

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**Cuckfield Evening WI**     20 December – Christmas Party  
17 January – "Lewes Bonfire" Andy Thomas  
Meetings from September take place at 7.30pm at the Cuckfield Baptist Church, Polestub Lane

---



## **HOLY BAPTISM**

Isobel Mae SLOAN  
Marley Ellen EUSTACE  
Mariella Josephine DOYLE

## **BLESSING & THANKSGIVING FOR A CHILD**

Scarlett Victoria GOFF  
Tristan Jonathan GOFF

## **CONFIRMATIONS**

Robert Stephen HARRINGTON  
Susanne MARTIN  
Mark Robert PARKER

---

# Directory

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<i>Church Office</i>	The Old School, Church Street, Cuckfield, West Sussex RH17 5JZ <i>Normally open Monday – Friday mornings</i>	456461
<i>Church Website</i>	<b>www.holytrinitycuckfield.org</b>	
<i>Church Email</i>	<b>htcuckfield.churchoffice@talktalk.net</b>	
<i>Vicar</i>	Rev'd Michael Maine	454007
<i>Church Wardens</i>	Kate Berry	455986
	Brian Cutler	412790
<i>Reader</i>	Clive Simmonds	07793420399
<i>Honorary Secretary</i>	David Thunder	417103
<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	Orlando Milford	453457
<i>Planned Giving Secretary</i>	Gerry Larner	412716
<i>Electoral Roll Officer</i>	Sam Lawrence	473753
<i>Safeguarding Coordinator</i>	Rod Montague	410453
<i>Sunday's Cool</i>	Hilary Turner-King	400087
<i>Noah's Ark (under 3's)</i>	Rebecca Anderson	413597
<i>Inspire Youth Clubs</i>	Marlene	07544839013
<i>Messy Church</i>	Hilary Turner-King	400087
<i>Organist &amp; Choir Director</i>	Vacancy	
<i>Choir Secretary</i>	Eileen Macdougall	451815
<i>Music Group Secretary</i>	Michele Branscombe	415802
<i>Bellringers Secretary</i>	Janice Peek	414953
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	Elisabeth Dunnett	413719
	Kate Berry	455986
	Robert Norris	453127
<i>Chichester Cathedral Link</i>	Reg Ruddock	459573
<i>Mothers' Union</i>	Ros Thunder	417103
<i>Church Inspecting Architect</i>	Nicholas Rowe	440200
<i>The Friends of Holy Trinity</i>	Paul Goldfinch	882649
<i>Church Office Secretary</i>	Gill Squires	456461
<i>The Old School Manager</i>	Peter Groves	456900
<i>Parish Magazine Editor</i>	duty-editor@holytrinitycuckfield.org	
<i>Magazine Advertising</i>	David Seabrook	456583
<i>Website Administrator</i>	Brian Cutler	412790

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# Holy Trinity Cuckfield

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## **SUNDAY SERVICES & MAJOR FESTIVALS FOR THE MONTH** *(SEE INSIDE)*

### **WEEKDAY SERVICES – NORMALLY IN THE LADY CHAPEL**

Monday	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10.30am 5.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Coffee & Cake Evening Prayer
Thursday	9.00am	Holy Communion
Friday	11.00am	Holy Communion, BCP
Saturday	8.45am	Morning Prayer

### **FOR CHILDREN - IN THE OLD SCHOOL – SUNDAYS**

Noah's Ark	ages 0 to 3
Children's Church	ages 3 to 10
Pathfinders	action for 11 to 13 year olds.

*except for 1st Sunday of each month when all join the Family Service  
and during the school summer holidays.*

for details of weekday youth activities see regular events

**NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME  
COME AND SEE!**

**JOIN US FOR COFFEE IN THE OLD SCHOOL  
AFTER 9.45 SERVICES**

Michael Maine, Vicar