

Village

December / January 2021/22

Web



Christingle

Sunday 5 December 2021 at 4pm

Holy Trinity Church, Chrishall



*'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.'*
John 8:12



STRETHALL CHRISTMAS CARD 2021

The image on the front cover is taken from the Strethall sewing group's new wall hanging in the church.

The winter scene has been embroidered by Philippa Croft from a watercolour by Phyl McGrath.

A pack of 10 Cards for £5. Please contact Anne Tozer 01763 838391 or Nick Romyn 01799 522933

**18 January 2022 - final date for submission of
articles for the February edition**



The Parish of the
Icknield Way Villages

Church Services in December

Sunday 5

- 9.00am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity **Heydon** SG8 8PW
4.00pm Family Christingle service at Holy Trinity **Chrishall** SG8 8QU

Saturday 11

- 3.00pm Carol Service at Holy Trinity **Heydon** with Royston Town Band
SG8 8PW

Sunday 12

- 9.00am Holy Communion at St Marys **Strethall** CB11 4XJ
10.45am Family Worship at St Swithuns **Great Chishill** SG8 8SS
6.00pm Carol Service at St Nicholas **Elmdon** CB11 4LT

Saturday 18

- 6.00pm Carol Service at St Swithuns **Great Chishill** SG8 8SS

Sunday 19

- 10.45am Carol Service at Holy Trinity **Chrishall** SG8 8QU
6.00pm Carol Service at Hamlet Church **Duddenhoe End** CB11 4XN

Christmas Eve

- 3.00pm Crib Service at Holy Trinity **Chrishall** SG8 8QU
11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion at St Nicholas **Elmdon** CB11 4LT

Christmas Day

- 10.00am Common Worship with Holy Communion **Little Chishill** SG8 8PA
10.30am Carol Service at St Marys **Strethall** CB11 4XU

Sunday 26

- 10.30am Common Worship with Holy Communion **Great Chishill** SG8 8SS

Service details, diary events and more at www.icknieldwayparish.blogspot.co.uk



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January Services

Sunday 2

- 9.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church **Little Chishill**
SG8 8PA
10.45am Family Worship at Holy Trinity **Chrishall** SG8 8QU

Sunday 9

- 9.00am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity **Heydon** SG8 8PW
10.45am Family Worship at St Swithuns **Great Chishill** SG8 8SS

Sunday 16

- 9.00am Holy Communion St Marys Church **Strethall** CB11 4XJ
10.45am Family Café Church at Holy Trinity **Chrishall** SG8 8QU

Sunday 23

- 9.00am Holy Communion Hamlet Church **Duddenhoe End** CB11 4XN
10.45am Family Worship with Holy Communion at St Swithuns
Great Chishill SG8 8SS

Sunday 30

- 9.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church **Elmdon** CB11 4LT
10.45am Family Worship with pets at Holy Trinity **Heydon** SG8 8PW

Parish News from Anand, our Rector



Dear all

I give thanks to God for the plans we have this Christmas and hope that we will be able to hold all the planned services. We have carols planned for all churches and we have Christingle and crib services coming up. Details are on our services sheet in the first few pages of the magazine.

Please make use of our online giving facility which you can find detailed on our website and in the weekly bulletin. We currently have a large deficit and are praying that we will be able to pay it by the end of the year.

My heartfelt thanks to all the PCC and DCC members and all other volunteers who have supported the life of the church in our community over the year. I hope you all have a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

With warm wishes

Anand Sodadasi

A Reflection from Anand

‘The Hope of Christmas’

One of the most personal and reflective questions that anyone can ask is, “what am I really like?” Or, “what is my nature?” Or, “what am I in my innermost being?” Individual thoughts and expressions are now often scrutinised. We can be told what to believe and what not to believe by those who hold power and authority and those of strong political views. The world is changing rapidly and sometimes we might wonder why the world is not how we want it to be and we may then tend to blame everyone and everything. However, if we hold up a mirror to ourselves we might realise it’s always been in our nature.

Last week we observed Remembrance Day, remembering soldiers who

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Friday	
<i>Vinyasa Nourishing Flow</i>	09:30-10:30
Saturday	
<i>Uplifting Flow</i>	09:00-10:00
<i>Beginners/ Gentle Flow</i>	10:30-11:30



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died in the two world wars and who are still dying in world conflicts today. The German scholar, Max Weber, said ‘the human nature of conflict always exists and brings constant changes’. Conflicts at all levels return in a cycle and produce changes all the time. We generally accept that there has never been a time in human history when there has been no war. Jesus predicted, “...*there will be wars, rumours of wars, nation will raise against nation, kingdom against kingdom ...*” (Matthew 24:6). These things happen all the time in the history of mankind. So, what’s the point of Jesus’s prediction? Jesus was trying to point out that pride, power, greed, control and dominance at the expense of others or nations will always exist.

Recent news has been dominated by the COP26 Climate Summit and reports on what has been achieved through the intense negotiations of the participating 197 nations. I believe that it is greed that has brought us to this stage. We are optimistic and hope to make the world a better place, but our optimism should not overshadow what Jesus is talking about. Is there any mechanism that manages nations’ promises of controlling emissions of carbon dioxide and methane, and afforestation plans? Previous international agreements have failed to slow deforestation.

We are close to Christmas and this brings to us a ray of hope for humanity. It is a time of reflection, peace and for joy to triumph over our adversities. The Angel said, “*Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*” (Luke 2:10).

When we accept Jesus as the Saviour and Lord in our personal life then our life transforms. One of the fundamental signs of this transformation is the desire to know God’s Word as revealed in the scriptures and then life will not be the same.

Christianity is not for Christmas alone but for life. Hence, Jesus said, “*I am the Way, the Life and the Truth, no one comes to the Father except through me*” (John 14:6). Jesus is our pathway to God. It is my prayer that this Christmas brings you every blessing, peace, joy, hope and strength despite all the hurdles and challenges that life brings. Amen.

Shailaja, Stephen, Serina and I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anand Sodadasi

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If you were born on or before 26 September 1955 and you get the State Pension or another social security benefit (not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Child Benefit or Universal Credit) you may be eligible for a winter fuel payment of between £100 and £300 to help you pay your fuel bills. Most payments are made automatically in November or December. If you think you are eligible and have not received your money by 14 January 2022, contact the Winter Fuel Payment Centre on 0800 731 0160.

If you do not qualify for Winter Fuel Payment, you may still be able to get a Cold Weather Payment if you claim certain benefits and the average temperature in your area is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees celsius or below over 7 consecutive days between November and March. This is paid automatically – you do not need to apply.

You could also get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2021 to 2022 under the Warm Home Discount Scheme. The money is not paid to you - it's a one-off discount on your electricity bill. You are eligible if you receive the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit and should receive a letter from your supplier by December 2021. You may also qualify for the discount if you are on a low income and meet your energy supplier's criteria for the scheme. As the number of discounts suppliers can give is limited you should check with your supplier as early as possible to see if you're eligible and how to apply.

If you are not sure how to claim or are worried about paying your fuel bills, the team of energy specialists at Uttlesford Citizens Advice can help. Call them on 01799 618858 for benefit checks, the warm home discount scheme and help with fuel debt, as well as information on joining oil clubs, energy efficiency, affordable warmth and home improvement grants and the priority services register.

If you feel you can do without your winter fuel payment, perhaps consider donating it to help others in this area who are struggling. During cold weather many elderly people are faced with the stark choice of fuel or food, and lower temperatures increase the risk of health problems such as heart attacks, strokes and bronchitis. Uttlesford Citizens Advice uses donations to help people save money on heating costs, including access to help with insulation, understand what financial help is available and manage any fuel-related debts. Donate via their website or call 01799 618840.

Uttlesford Citizens Advice

Church Cleaning - A Conservation Approach to Metal

All kinds of metal can be found in churches, from brass to iron. Sometimes they are a major structural element while others are more decorative. Many of the decorative items are historic and have a high significance, but others are in use day-to-day.

It is important to understand that the metals in our churches are manmade. Metal ores (like those of copper and zinc) are combined and heated to create a workable substance. This process forces oxygen out which means that these are relatively unstable and will actively react with oxygen, moisture and chemicals to break down and take back the oxygen that it has lost. This process is a chemical reaction and cannot be reversed, but there are steps we can take to improve the appearance.

Before we start

Inspect the item to identify the materials, surface decoration of painting and any signs of deterioration. Some metals will have coatings or varnishes on them that are less obvious than painted decoration and inscriptions.

If the metal is deteriorating or paint work is flaking or there is a coating that you can't identify, avoid doing anything more than dusting the metal. Instead, seek professional advice and consider calling a conservator.

Deterioration and Damage

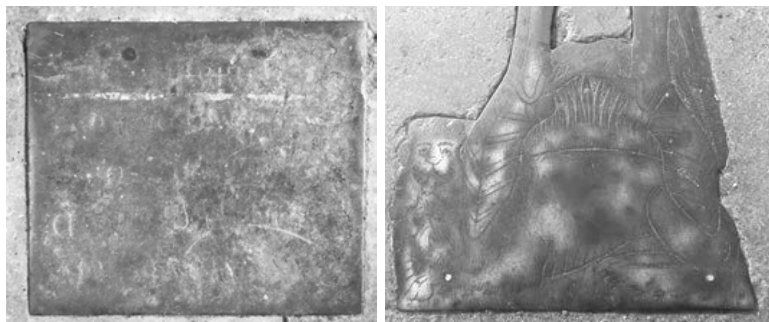
Water - trapped moisture and pooling liquid will encourage rust, corrosion, and etching. This is visible in a change of colour or surface texture.

Abrasion - some metals are more robust than others, but they are all vulnerable to abrasion. This is most obvious when it comes to copper alloys such as, brass and bronze. Metals can be abraded through general wear, but the action of cleaning can also abrade the surface. While cleaning we must try to use the least abrasive materials.

Chemicals - cleaning chemicals, inappropriate coatings, bat urine and even water all contain ingredients that will cause chemical reactions when



Bat droppings on brass



*Water
and
footfall
damage*

in contact with metal. This chemical reaction is within the surface of the metal and often looks like blue spots or patches. This is difficult to clean because the damage is deep within the surface of the metal.

Cleaning

All cleaning must be done sensitively and carefully. Harsh techniques and materials can cause abrasion and scratching. Even the most careful of cleaning techniques can result in small scratches of the surface, that although not visible at first, will leave the surface more vulnerable and prone to deterioration in the future.

Dusting – dust all surfaces first. This can be done using soft brushes and a vacuum with a brush attachment. Do not vacuum vulnerable paint surfaces as this will result in loss. If you intend to polish the metal, removing all dust is important, as particles of dust can cause scratching.

Surface deposits - candle wax, spilled paint, limewash or any other spillages can be removed either by brushing or with a blunt wooden spatula. Try lifting the dirt off the surfaces rather than scraping.

Bat urine - try to identify bat urine spots as soon as possible and soak this up with a paper towel or a cloth. The longer the urine is in contact with the metal surface the more time it has to create a chemical reaction and etch the surface.

Ferrous metals - some ferrous metals may have rusted. Thick areas of rust can be brushed with a wire brush.

Polishing - the action of polishing removes a layer of the surface of the metal. This results in a shiny surface. Before polishing think about the age of the item and the finish that you want to have at the end of it. Some historic items, like monumental brasses, will have a historic patina that polishing will remove and the shiny surface may not be appropriate.

Repeated abrasive polishing will result in the loss of details like inscriptions.

Most store bought polishes and metal cleaners (including Brasso) are far too abrasive for use on historic metalwork. They will leave a shiny surface, which will last for a short time, but the micro-fissures and tiny cracks leave the surface more



vulnerable to deterioration in the future. Try to use something less abrasive. One product locally available is Peek polish. Apply a little to the surface and polish gently using cotton wool. Make sure not to get any of the product lodged in cracks or crevices. Take care not to let the polish spread onto other surfaces, especially if the piece you are working on is mounted on wood or stone.

Renaissance wax is a microcrystalline wax that can be applied to the surface of metals. This offers some cleaning benefits and gives a layer of protection to the metal which helps it last longer between each clean.

Prevention

In some cases, especially if you are seeing lots of damage from bat urine, protecting the metal with covers, is the best option for preservation. Use something breathable so as not to trap moisture and use extra padding, like soft woollen underlay for brasses on the floor. Long-term solutions for wall mounted brasses can be created in a very sensitive and affordable way for your church. These can be subtle glazed frames or mounted Perspex. I have some examples of these so if it is something you would like to pursue, get in touch and I will share them.

Rachel Arnold

Decorating with Boughs of Holly

As 2021 enters its final month, we anticipate seasonal celebrations to brighten the shortest days of the year. The ancient tradition of decking our houses with garlands of fresh green holly branches reminds us of the continuity of life, bringing us cheer when the days are short.

On reaching the age of 20, female holly trees bear red berries on branches covered with prickly shiny green leaves which can be cut to make decorative wreaths. Such wreaths featured in midwinter Celtic and Roman celebrations as symbols of good fortune, a tradition that continues thanks to the intervention of a local man, William Winstanley (1628 – 1698).

During the Commonwealth which lasted from 1649 to 1660, the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell proclaimed that it was illegal to celebrate Christmas, banning frivolities and feasting on mince pies. Winstanley, who lived in Quendon, believed in celebrating Christmas as a time for sharing joy, fun and good fortune with others. After restoration of the monarchy in 1660, using his influence as a writer, he encouraged a return to the seasonal merrymaking which we still enjoy today.

Holly trees were frequently planted near houses to ward off a lightning strike; interestingly scientific research has revealed that its spiky leaves can act as miniature lightning conductors! Holly also grows in hedges or as a shrub in woods where its berries provide nourishment for blackbirds, thrushes and wood mice. Its dense branches provide secure nesting sites.



Deer and rabbits will eat its nutritious leaves.

Today, many homeowners plant variegated forms of holly to provide interest in their gardens and they can select a mixture of foliage to make seasonal decorations. Yew is another evergreen with red coloured fruits (loved by birds and squirrels), but as its leaves are poisonous it is less suitable for indoor decorations.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee of The Hundred Parish Society

Finding Help and Support this Winter



Health services come under extra pressure in the winter - so it can be a good idea to consider other routes to help.

www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk is a website you can use to search and identify local services and make a self-referral - this means you get the support you need more quickly. The website is easy to use – look for services by entering key words into the search area.

For example typing in ‘COLD’ will bring up all the local organisations that provide cold weather support, including help to apply for winter benefits and home improvement grants, plus energy efficiency advice, information on oil clubs, switching suppliers and handyman services.

The website can also be used to access fall prevention services, community transport options, money advice, mental health services, heart health checks, carer support, child and family wellbeing services, support for long term health conditions, including cancer, weight management services, drugs and alcohol programmes and more.

If you use a mobile device, you may prefer to download the ‘Frontline Public’ app from the App Store or google play. Alternatively, if you don’t have access to the internet at home, you can get online for free at your local library, (ask staff to help you), or call Healthwatch on 0300 500 1895 for details of services in your local area.

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COP26 - A Christian Perspective

Over the last two weeks in Glasgow many earnest words have been spoken, some pledges made and a lot of disappointment that more could not have been achieved. The minds of world leaders and indeed all of us have been focussed on the damage done to the natural world by humankind with its overuse of natural resources. There has been much talk of curtailing the use of fossil fuels, reparation payments from the richer developed nations to the poorer developing ones, of ending deforestation and so much more. However, an agreement, of sorts, has been struck.

“It’s basically as good as one could hope for”, said Robert Stavins from Harvard University and Chris Packham, the wildlife presenter, tweeted, “We have been failed and scorned by the stupid, the greedy and the evil. Life is now in mortal danger and it’s down to us to do what needs to be done”. Strong words...

In all the words that have come from COP26, God didn’t get a mention and yet a lot of the language emanating from the conference had a distinctly religious flavour - witness the words from Chris Packham above and from many others.

This is the point at which my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ compels me to take a different view. The book of Genesis, which opens the Bible, tells us who made our beautiful earth and the book of Revelation, which closes it, tells us how it will all work out.

God commanded his first human creation, Adam, to be a good steward of his (God’s) Creation. Adam displayed the wilful disobedience of humankind, which includes us, and made an early hash of it. Adam’s punishment was to be banished from the Garden of Eden. But God did not abandon him! He made Adam and Eve ‘garments of skin and clothed them’ and has continued to walk alongside his people, whom he created, ‘in his own image’!

Since then, mankind has toiled on the earth and God has never left us alone. Indeed, he displayed his love for us by allowing his only son, Jesus, who was with him at the very beginning, to take on to himself all the guilt which has been, by rights, our own - thus allowing a way back to the personal presence of God. Truly, salvation.

If God really did all this, will he now give over the destiny of planet Earth

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to us and withdraw? Will he allow us to be the final judges of his marvellous creation? Do we really have the kind of power to right all the wrongs we have committed in the damage we have continued to wreak in the world? I don't believe so. By the grace of God man has invented and built so much, his imagination and ingenuity have expanded our horizons vastly - but isn't it true that only God can make a tree?

To conclude, nothing much has been said at COP26 to alleviate the fear felt by so many of our children and young people, who believe that this world is all there is and that it will probably not be there for them to inherit. Fear and faith are poor bedfellows. Faith allows us to believe the promise of Jesus that he will, one day, return and heal his Creation. Not only that, but to renew it and make it even better than it ever was! This will happen on his return and his people, who long for that day, will inhabit with him...the new Earth! His promise is that we will live for ever, with him, right here!

We are duty bound, in the meantime, to work together with him to put right what we can in the world and to pray for his help in the things we can't. He told us "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things will be given unto you". **Jon Wayper**

Singers

Royston Choral Society singers have dusted off their scores after the lockdown and are looking forward to giving their first concert since 2019. We are singing Part 1 of Handel's Messiah (the Christmassy bits with angels and trumpets) and a Haydn mass you are sure to like.

Quite a few RCS singers live in the parish, from Elmdon through Chrishall to Chishill, and we would love you to join us. The venue is Standon Parish Church on 11 December at 7.30pm. Tickets are £15 (£1 for under 18s) available from choir members or you can call 01920 822723 or visit www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk. We do hope you will come.

We're at Standon because it's an excellent performing space, but we're looking forward to returning to our home at Royston Parish Church as soon as repairs are completed - expected in Spring 2022, when we shall perform Mozart's wonderful Requiem.

Neil Heywood

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December Dates *for regular events*

- Monday 6** **Open Door Catch-up Cafe**
Chrishall Village Hall 10.30- noon.
Come along for tea/coffee/cake
- Monday 6** **St Swithuns Coffee Morning**
St Swithuns, Great Chishill 10.30am
- Wednesday 8** **Heydon Hedgehogs**
Holy Trinity Church, Heydon 10.00am
Parent and toddler coffee morning .
See Facebook page for more info
- Wednesday 15** **Church Mice**
Chrishall Village Hall – 10.30am
Contact Church Office 837272

January '22 Dates *for regular events*

- Monday 10** **Open Door Catch-up Cafe**
Chrishall Village Hall 10.30- noon.
Come along for tea/coffee/cake
- Wednesday
12 & 26** **Church Mice**
Chrishall Village Hall – 10.30am
Contact Church Office 837272
- Wednesday 19** **St Swithuns Coffee Morning**
St Swithuns, Great Chishill 10.30am
- Wednesday 26** **Men's Group**
The Red Cow, Chrishall – 8pm
- Tuesdays** **Gt Chishill Youth Club**
Great Chishill Village Hall 6.30-8.00pm in term time
Contact Emily 07900 243491
- Thursdays** **Chishill Chimps**
Great Chishill Village Hall – 10-11.45am

Parish Contacts - *Telephone codes are 01763 unless stated*

Rector: Reverend Dr Anand Sodadasi (*free day – Monday*)

The Rectory, 1 Hall Lane, Great Chishill, Royston, Herts SG8 8SG

Tel: 838703 Email: anandsodadasi@hotmail.co.uk

Church Office:

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 9am to 1pm - Church Office, Crawley End, Chrishall,

Royston, Herts SG8 8QL Tel: 837272 Email: iwp.parishoffice@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Mrs Shailaja Sodadasi Email: shailajanand@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Church Warden & Authorised Local Preacher: Jon Wayper

Tel: 01799 732045 Email: jwayper@hotmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Fiona Dyer Tel: 07854 602373

Email: iwp.safeguarding@gmail.com

District Wardens:

Chrishall – David Wilkinson 837303

Gt Chishill – Angela Patrick Sutcliffe 837353

Heydon – Alex Duffus 836903

Strethall – Anne Tozer 838890

Elmdon – John Holford 838286

Hamlet – Sarah Westerhuis

07739550061

Lt Chishill – Elaine Knobel-Forbes
838781

Children's and Youth Work: Contact office - 837272 or Anand 838703

Treasurer: Laurence Brett Tel: 838167 Email: laurencebrett@icloud.com

Donations: Barclays Bank – Sort: 20-73-26 Account: 40898023
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Tower Bell Ringing: For all towers please contact the church office 837272

Chrishall Primary School: Head Teacher Tracey Bratley Tel: 838592

Village Web Magazine Team:

Editor: Tim Handyside 838158- iwp.webeditor@gmail.com

Advertising : Angela Bucksey 838605 - clerk.heydonpc@gmail.com

Parish Office 837272 - iwp.parishoffice@gmail.com

Marcus West 838294

Mel Chandler 838289



Published by the Parish of The Icknield Way Villages
on behalf of the churches in our community



PARISH CAROLLING – TUESDAY 21 DECEMBER

Once again, Robert Smith has kindly offered to pull a trailer around our villages and pubs for our annual carolling. We will have musical accompaniment and singers. A warm welcome at every stop has become a firm favourite in the parish.

Please bring a torch and warm clothes and join in at any stop.

Carol sheets will be provided.

6.15pm - meet at Elmdon to pick up trailer outside the church ready to depart

6.30pm - call at The Pheasant

7.10pm - stop off at The King William

7.45pm - gather round the tree at The Red Cow

Finally, returning to Elmdon at around 8.45pm, full of bonhomie and festive cheer!

Our thanks to the Landlords/ladies of our village pubs for graciously hosting the carollers.

If you would like to travel on the trailer, please contact Mel Chandler 838289 or the church office





**We wish you all
a very happy Christmas
and a prosperous New Year**

*Distributed free by volunteers to all the homes in the Parish of the Ikknield Way Villages - Chishall,
Elmdon with Wenden Lofts, Duddenhoe End, Great Chishill, Little Chishill, Heydon and Strethall.*