

Bedhampton Parish

St Thomas & St Nicholas



December
2021

50p

Gary Beaton



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At The Heart of Christmas

I wonder how your heart is this Christmas? Is it giddy with anticipation and hope as you head towards the big day? Perhaps you are looking forward to being with your family in a way you were not able to be last year. Will there be young ones who fill your heart with laughter as you watch them unwrap presents and send wrapping paper to all corners of the living room? Maybe you will join us for our Advent scenes at Tentvent, The Christmas experience, Carols by Candlelight or one of the many other events. We certainly pray those events lift your heart.

That of course may not be what is in your heart and Christmas may be a difficult time for you. Perhaps this is the first time that there will be a gap in your celebrations. Many of us have lost loved ones this year, and our hearts ache. Perhaps a job loss or income reduction has been forced upon you. Are you simply too concerned to venture out where crowds may gather and find yourself alone and isolated? Perhaps your heart is heavy this Christmas season.

To ask what is at the heart of Christmas, may bring as many different answers as there are people in Bedhampton. And let us be real; when a Church leader asks you what is at the heart of Christmas, you know they are only heading in one direction. It reminds me of a joke about Jesus and a squirrel, but we will save that for another time.

For of course what is at the heart of Christmas is a God who knows the true state of your heart. The God who sent his son so that all our hearts might be healed and filled with joy. So wherever you find yourselves, my prayer is that it will be a Christmas that fills your heart with a hope for your future, a sure knowledge that there is a better time ahead. Take some time amongst all the glitter to pause, breathe and know that what is at the heart of Christmas is a God who loves you beyond measure and invites you to walk with Him.

Have a merry Christmas and fill your hearts with hope,

Max & Suzy



PARISH NEWS

Pause And Pray

A time to pause and gather together to pray for our Borough for 1 hour. This group will resume on the second Monday of the month 6-7pm at St Thomas' Church, Bedhampton.



BEDHAMPTON PARISH MAGAZINE 2022

Having kept price increases to a minimum over several years, we announce that from January 2022, the magazine price will be increased from 50p to 60 pence per copy or £6.00 for a one-year subscription.

For those who have the magazine delivered, your distributor will be calling during early December for you to continue receiving the Parish Magazine.

The Magazine Team

All Christmas event details can be found at www.Bedhampton.church/christmas

Office: 023 9248 3013

(Monday – Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm)

BEDHAMPTON CALENDAR 2023

**Why not take some local photos for a Bedhampton calendar ?
Keep taking photos – they may be submitted for next year.**



If you have any photos of local interest, please send them to the Parish Office, either by email or prints. All prints will be safely returned to you.

FOODBANK contributions can be made at Asda, Tesco, and Waitrose, in both our churches or in the black box at the Rectory in Bidbury Lane.

St Nick's Flicks

**Tuesday 14th
December**

at St Nicholas' Church
1.45pm for 2pm start



A free film show with refreshments and interval. All welcome, no need to book. Contact the office for film details.

office@bedhamptonparish.org.uk

Santa

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Cover photo: The Christmas
Prayer Tree: *Iain Fairley*



St Nicholas Church
Messy Sunday News



December 5th will be our Advent/Christmas Messy Church – don't miss it!

Sadly, as many may be aware, the November Messy Church session had to be cancelled at the last moment as two leading volunteers contracted the Covid virus. Unfortunately, the Messy Christmas party, planned for December 19th, has also had to be cancelled due to illness and the continued risk of infection. We do advise you all to continue to take care; this virus has not gone away.

We invite you to explore what is at the heart of Christmas

Tentvent

4.30pm – 6pm, Sunday 5th, 12th, and 19th December

Each week visit the many community Advent scenes!

St Nicholas' Church in Belmont Grove, PO9 3PU

The Christmas Experience

3pm – 6pm, Saturday 11th December – 1st January

Place yourself at the heart of the Christmas Experience.

St Thomas' Church in Bidbury Lane, PO9 3JG



Sunday 19th December: 6.30pm **Carols by Candlelight** at St. Thomas'

Sunday 19th December: 3pm – 4.30pm **Messy Christmas** party at St. Nicholas'

Free request tickets at www.Bedhampton.church/christmas

Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service at St Nicholas'

..30pm Midnight Communion Service at St. Thomas'



Saturday 25th December – Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Thomas'

10.00am All Age Celebration at St Thomas'



Watch out for the Christingle on 9th January 2022

PARISH NEWS

NEW YEAR NEW YOU?

Max and Suzy are hosting Alpha, an open and informal dialogue about faith, the person of Jesus, and what it all means. We want to hear your thoughts and questions as we explore these themes together without the pressured atmosphere that usually comes with these conversations.

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over nine weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Everyone is welcome.

Contact us for more information about **Alpha**.



Fleur Bragaglia took part and completed the Great South Run in aid of the Portsmouth Downs Syndrome Association. The whole family also did the Mini Run on the Saturday.

Tracey Smith and Leeanne Barber took part in the Ironman 70.3 in Weymouth in September. The Triathlon consisted of a 1.2 mile sea swim, followed by a 56 mile road bike ride and then a 13.1 mile run. Leanne completed the course in under 6 hours while Tracey took 7 hours. Well done to all of them!



NEW YEAR NEW YOU?

Starting soon in Bedhampton
you're invited to explore
life, faith and meaning.
bedhampton.church/alpha



Christingle Service

Sunday 9th January, 4pm

at St Nicholas' Church



FAMILY NEWS

We send our good wishes to those who celebrate anniversaries and birthdays this month including Sandra Matthews, Allan Thompson and Peter Coe.

Congratulations also to Chris Tambling, mother of Tracey Smith who will celebrate her birthday on Christmas Day.



The Life of an Ordinand

Since September my life has changed dramatically. No longer am I a headteacher; instead I am starting out as an ordinand (someone training to be ordained as a priest).

So, what does this mean in practice? Firstly, it means I don't have the stress and worry of leading a busy school and being responsible for the lives of hundreds of staff, children and families. Secondly, it means I am starting on a new training course and have the excitement of learning

new things. Thirdly, it means I have more time available, to breathe, to appreciate what I have and to be more available for friends and family.

The course so far has consisted of two weekends away at a beautiful college in Oxford (pictured below) as well as one evening a week at St Luke's church in Portsmouth. Communal worship plays an important role in all of our meetings as does sharing fellowship and food together before we get down to the business of study. So far, we have completed a short course called 'Prepare to learn' to get all of us ready for the rigours that await for us over the next three years.

So far, I'm enjoying the life changes I have made and I look forward with eager expectation for all that lies ahead.



Polly Honeychurch

Emily Ashworth, who spent a few months with us earlier this year, is also at this college studying on the same course. –Ed.

We wish them both every success and remember them in our prayers.

Be kind

Try to be kind to each other this Christmas: many of us could do with some gentle encouragement. The reduced interaction of people and the infections and increase in isolation caused many extra cases of depression and anxiety in 2020.



REMEMBERING MAGGIE BISHOP

By Kate Juniper

Mum was born the second child of John and Muriel Hodgson on 21st May 1935 and grew up in Havant. She married our father, John Ernest Bishop, known to many as Ernie, on 9th March 1957 and, apart from a short period when first married, lived the rest of her life in Bedhampton.

Maggie was Sister, Sister-in-law, Wife, Cousin, Niece, Aunt, Granny Maggie - to more than just her four grandsons, Friend and Neighbour and our Mum and she tried to fill each role to the best of her abilities.



Community was extremely important to Mum, and I am sure you will each have your own memories to reflect upon of parties, events and outings that Mum was involved with organising or taking part in.

For us three girls growing up in Pennant Hills, we remember street parties and house parties, babysitting circles and sewing groups, picnics and walks, recipeswaps and cups of tea out on the front lawn - and it was amazing how many children could fit into one vehicle back in the 70's.

The grandchildren knew Granny and Bo bo's home as their own and they knew where to find the cake, there was always cake! The boys were encouraged and supported through school and sports, with Granny turning out to have a good shout at Hockey matches or sports days. As adults Granny was interested in their lives, their jobs and their girlfriends, always happy to provoke debate, always happy to get a hug and always on the doorstep to wave them off as they drove up the hill.

The Church community was very much part of Mum's life and Mum would volunteer to help at the Church fund raising events; The Summer Shows, the Mammoth Jumble Sales, Christmas Bazaars, Harvest Suppers and Barn Dances all have strong memories for me and my sisters as we were usually involved as well.

Mum was active in the Bedhampton community through WI, Girl Guiding, The Children's Society and so on, with friends from childhood and friends made through shared interests. Growing up in this environment we, as children, were given a sense of belonging and the confidence that provides.

There was lots of love and lots of laughs throughout our lives, memories of late Sunday Lunches because Mum had a good book that she couldn't put down, blackberry picking to make jams and jellies, handmade dresses for us and hand knitted matinée jackets and jumpers for the grandchildren. Holidays in the Lake District, guide camps, driving lessons, weddings and flowers, Christmas puddings and mince pies.

Mum was known to be forthright and challenging - a bit feisty you might say! Yes! there have been disagreements along the way, however, what family doesn't have a few of them, but after all is said and done, Mum was someone who would step up and speak out when needed, and you know that she would have had an opinion! We grew up believing we had a very ordinary family and boringly normal life; it is only as adults that we appreciate how fortunate we have been. Thank you Mum.

Maggie Bishop

21 May 1935 – 21 September 2021



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It was good to welcome our congregation at the annual Remembrance Day service this year, together with the trumpeter and some of our uniformed organisations. Whilst many are still being careful about distancing and mask wearing, the Cubs and Scouts were in the Chancel. *Photo: Elspeth Ringrose*



PARISH NEWS

6th December: St Nicholas – patron saint of children

Father Christmas seems to be as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his reindeer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and She transformed him into a saint, the much-loved Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (in south-west Turkey) in the fourth century. St Nicholas became the patron saint of children and was given 6th December as his day.

Since the 6th century St Nicholas has been venerated in both East and West, though virtually nothing is known of his life. According to legend, Nicholas was an extremely generous man. He revived three schoolboys murdered by an innkeeper in a tub of pickles. He rescued three young women from prostitution by giving their poverty-stricken father three bags of gold. (Hence the use of three gold balls as the pawnbroker's signs.)

Perhaps it was on account of St. Nicholas' generosity that in recent centuries children began to write little notes sometime before 6th December, to tell him about the toys they specially wanted. These notes were then left on the windowsill at night - or else on a ledge in the chimney.

But St Nicholas Day chanced to lie in the magnetic field of a much more potent festival.... and after a time his activities were moved towards Christmas. Then in Bavaria the children still left their notes on the windowsill, but they addressed them to Liebes Christkind - Krishinkle as they knew him - and the saint's part in the matter was simply to deliver the letters in heaven.

The most popular result of the cult of St Nicholas has been the institution of Santa Claus. He is based on Nicholas' patronage of children and the custom in the Low Countries of giving presents on his feast. Santa Claus has reached his zenith in America, where the Dutch Protestants of New Amsterdam (New York) united to it Nordic folklore legends of a magician who both punished naughty children and rewarded good ones with presents.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get around all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have



to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

Camels

In Jane's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a large star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it.

"Why is the third man going in a different direction?" her mother asked.

Jane replied: "Oh, he's looking for a place to park."





Music for the Messiah

Have you noticed that, in the Christmas story, singing is featured on three occasions?

Firstly, after Mary was given a message from the angel Gabriel, and was visiting her elderly and pregnant relative, Elizabeth. Mary was so overwhelmed with happiness at the forthcoming miraculous births, she started to sing.

Over the years, her words, known as *The Magnificat*, have been set to music by various composers. The hymn *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord* is one example of it. Of course, we don't know Mary's melody line, but her words express God's promise that He would rescue His people and through them save the world. Mary sings of God's mercy and benevolence on the helpless, the humble and the hungry.

Months later, in the fields of Bethlehem, shepherds were confronted with an angel and given an incredible message: the Saviour, the Messiah had been born. This was followed by a host of angels who could not help but sing glory to God. Later, the shepherds saw the baby Jesus. They then returned home: not in silence and awe, but in song. They were overwhelmed with an encounter with Almighty God! Heaven and earth had been brought together. They simply couldn't stop themselves from praising and glorifying God.

For Mary, the Shepherds and the Eastern Men too, that first Christmas brought in a time of hope: hope for the helpless, pardon for the guilty, and forgiveness for the conscious stricken. Good news for those who had had nothing but bad news!

From that time on, people have tried to express their gratitude, thanks and wonder at God's love and mercy. Over the centuries, countless poets and musicians have composed music for us to sing. At no other time in the year, is so much music used to describe and express one moment in history.

Traditionally, December is a time for concerts and services of Christmas music. We come together to sing carols and other songs that express the wonder of God's Gift to us. Unfortunately, last year, the coronavirus restricted or even cancelled our musical festivities. This month, we may be in a better position to worship together.

Jesus has given us hope; forgiven our sin; and continues to impart faith and heal our spiritual wounds. Isn't that something to always sing about? *O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Christmas Carols

One night Freda went carol singing. She knocked on the door of a house and began to sing. A man with a violin in his hand came to the door. Within half a minute, tears were streaming down his face. Touched, Freda sang every carol she knew - and some she didn't. The man continued to weep gently throughout her performance. "I understand," she said softly at last. "You are remembering your happy childhood Christmas days." "No, not exactly," he replied in a choked sort of voice. "I'm a musician!"



MEMORIES OF 2020

'Twas a week before Christmas
And all through the town,
People wore masks
That covered their frown.

The frown had begun
Way back in the Spring,
When a global pandemic
Changed everything.

They called it corona,
But unlike the beer,
It didn't bring good times,
It didn't bring cheer.

Airplanes were grounded,
Travel was banned.
Borders were closed
Across air, sea and land.

As the world entered lockdown
To flatten the curve,
The economy halted
And folks lost their nerve.

From March to July
We rode the first wave,
People stayed home,
They tried to behave.

When summer emerged
The lockdown was lifted.
But away from caution,
Many folks drifted.

Now it's December
And cases are spiking,
Wave two has arrived,
Much to our disliking.

It's true that this year
Has had sadness a-plenty,
We'll never forget
The year 2020.

And just round the corner –
The holiday season,
But why be merry?
Is there even one reason?

To decorate the house
And put up the tree,
Who will see it -
No one but me.

But outside my window
The rain gently falls
And I think to myself,
Let's deck the halls!

So, I gather the ribbon,
The garland and bows,
As I play those old carols,
My happiness grows.

Christmas is not cancelled
And neither is hope.
If we lean on each other,
I know we can cope.



Shawna Hickling

*Drive carefully this Christmas. It's not only cars
that can be recalled by their maker. - Anon*

BERNARD STANLEY

When Bernard celebrated his 80th birthday ten years ago, he wrote his life CV which was read at his service of thanksgiving.

Bernard was born on 4th June 1931 in Bedhampton, Hampshire. He was educated at Churcher's College in Petersfield. In 1946 he passed the School Certificate with Matriculation Exemption and in 1947 obtained the Higher School Certificate.

From 1947 to 1952 he trained as a solicitor, including day release courses at Univeristy College (now University of) Southampton. He was articled to Hubert Way, a Southsea solicitor and passed professional examinations at the first sitting and was admitted as a solicitor in December 1952.

From 1952 to 1954 he served in the Royal Air Force on National Service. After training, including Officer Cadet Training Unit, he was commissioned into the secretarial branch as a Pilot Officer, and subsequently promoted to Flying Officer. He was stationed at R.A.F. Tangmere and twice seconded, once to R.A.F. Fairlight and once to R.A.F. Manston to act as adjutant due to the temporary absence of the officer normally holding that post.

In 1955 he returned to the law as partner of Hubert Way, becoming principal on his death in 1961 and subsequently senior principal in the partnership which he established to carry on the business. He continued as such until his retirement in 2000, following which he acted as a consultant to the successor firm of Hughes Way. He specialised in the mortgage lending aspect of the business and as such represented owners in areas of Portsmouth due for slum clearance. Through Members of Parliament he negotiated the principle of market value compensation for owner occupiers and finally saw this enacted as the Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act 1956. In 1960 he established the Southsea Mortgage and Investment Company Limited. For many years, Ann Slade was one of his secretaries.

Bernard was a member of the Portsmouth Diocesan Conference from 1960 and successfully led opposition which defeated plans for the over large extension of the Cathedral. He was elected Representative for the Portsmouth Diocese on the Church Assembly 1965 to 1970 and on General Synod for 10 years thereafter. He was editor of the "General Synod Review" from 1975 to 2000.

He was elected as the first lay vice-president of the Portsmouth Diocesan Synod and chairman of the House of Laity.

In 1960 Bernard set up the Bedhampton Charitable Trust to act as a grant making charity. In 1967 he established The Manor Trust, Bedhampton to care for elderly people and to preserve the historic local buildings in which they were cared for.

Bernard had suffered ill health for the last five or so years and latterly required more care. He sadly died on 5th October 2021 at the Bedhampton Nursing Home.



Personal Reflections of Bernard Stanley

A service of thanksgiving took place in St. Thomas Church in October to give thanks for the life of Bernard Stanley who passed away in Bedhampton Nursing Home in early October.

Angela Maxwell remembers:

In a moment, Max the Rector will read a resumé of Bernard's life which Bernard in fact wrote in 2010, a year before his 80th birthday. This of course will be a factual record up to that point in his life.

I wanted just to add some personal memories from my childhood that have stayed with me, as Bernard has been part of my life and Rob's for nearly 60 years now.

The first memory I have of Bernard is when I was just 11 years old and our grandfather with whom we lived had just died; that was at the beginning of 1963.

At that time, Bernard was still living with his parents and he called to ask if our mother Cynthia needed any help with her tax return, which looking back now is certainly a different sort of chat up line!!

She was working full time and was probably very grateful to have some support never having had to manage the finances on her own before. So, she must have accepted Bernard's offer of help and over the next few months and years he became a more regular caller.

In my teenage years a random number of memories have stuck in my mind.

Bernard as you will know was a solicitor by profession and, in the course of his work, he used to have to go and visit clients and other legal colleagues and so on one occasion I remember him taking me on the train to London to one of the Inns of Court to see a colleague who was a High Court Judge who invited Bernard's little assistant to try on his Judge's wig for size which of course I thought was very special. I think it must have come down over my face as well, being an adult size.

Then another train trip was when Bernard went to see a client in Bristol where he managed to fit in a sight seeing trip for me to see the Clifton Suspension Bridge too.

These were real treats as Cynthia was working and couldn't take us out in this way.

Then there were trips in the summer to Hayling. Bernard would always be game enough to go in the sea however freezing cold it was.

He gave me my first driving lesson in his little Triumph Herald car. This was up on Portsdown Hill. I understood the purpose of the accelerator and the brake pedals but clearly failed to grasp the importance of the clutch as the car kept coming to a shuddering halt each time we stopped. I don't remember there being any more lessons in the Herald after that!

Bernard showed me how to read an ordnance survey map and on any outing in the Herald, I would be tasked with reading the map even though I'm sure Bernard knew exactly where we were going already.

On one occasion I can remember coming home from school and getting quite upset at not being able to do my maths homework. In desperation, Cynthia drove me up to Bernard's office in Havant at about 8 in the evening, unannounced and asked him to help sort me out! Can't remember if he got the homework right but he was certainly willing to have a go.

So, what a lot of miscellaneous memories I've got. Bernard was always so supportive of Cynthia, appreciating the difficulties she must have had in bringing up two children. He never overstepped the mark though and always kept a low profile.

He loved walking our dog Bilko named after TV's Sergeant Bilko, a short back and sides no-frills poodle, and the regular evening walk without fail was from no 22 Lower Road along to Mrs Sanger's lamp post in Elmhurst Terrace and then back again. The walk was so regular that the dog could easily have done it on his own. Bernard would then deliver Bilko back to our house and he then returned to his own home.

Once, he and Cynthia were walking Bilko around Emsworth harbour where you know the sea comes right up when the tide is in. Well, Bilko decided for some reason to jump in! It was winter time and Bernard had no alternative but to get rather wet and cold in hauling the dog out before they both froze to death. Suffice to say, they both survived the drama! Bernard told me once that he did have a dog while he was staying with his evacuee family in Woking during the war and I think that fondness for animals stayed with him.

He gave me my first holiday job at his Fareham office where I had to man quite a complicated switchboard. I don't remember there being much training so I hope he didn't lose too many clients because of my misdirection of calls.

I left home in 1971 and Rob in 1978, so Cynthia was not on her own up until then. At that time Bernard was still living in his family home at Bedhampton Road. However, in the early 1980s Bernard's mother was becoming more frail and so she decided to move from the family home to a self-contained flat at The Elms where Bernard also took on a small bedsit so that he could keep an eye on her needs and often I would imagine, they would share their evening meal together.

PARISH NEWS

But then when Mrs Stanley (Bernard's mother) died, I think Cynthia must have offered to cook in the evening for Bernard which provided them both with company. Bernard always enjoyed good food and so I'm sure he was very pleased to accept. He was always very generous in taking friends out for meals too.

By this time, the Manor Trust charity had been set up which was a shared venture started in 1967 by Bernard and Cynthia as the original Trustees to protect the heritage of old buildings in the village and to provide care for the elderly.

So through these years when Rob and I had left home, it was a great reassurance to us that Cynthia and Bernard had this shared interest and each other's companionship too. There were also numerous other conservation projects they undertook together in Norfolk.

When Cynthia died in 2005, Bernard must have felt very adrift for quite a while but eventually he was able to continue with all the projects and interests they had shared together.

These are just a few of the memories I have of my teenage years that have stayed in my mind. At the time I'm sure I took all of Bernard's kindness to our family for granted as youngsters often do.

But I now know how much his kindness touched so many other people's lives in his quiet and unassuming way. He has left a wonderful legacy as the work of the Manor Trust goes on and The Bedhampton Charitable Trust which he set up continues to benefit financially many many charitable organisations.

So, I'd like to end by saying, thank you Bernard for all you have meant to so many and may you now rest in peace, knowing how much you will be so lovingly remembered.

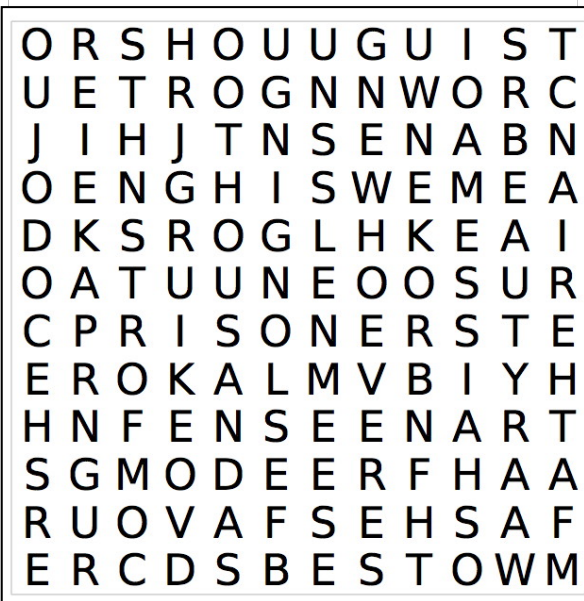
Angela Maxwell
*(daughter of the late
Cynthia Hoy)*



Bernard pictured in the Waterloo Room at The Elms.

Wordsearch for December: Christmas

Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on His people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.



- Messiah
- broken heart
- freedom
- darkness
- favour
- prisoners
- comfort
- mourn
- bestow
- crown
- beauty
- ashes
- Son
- God
- Jesus
- seen
- Father
- whoever
- longing
- thousand

NOVEMBER WORDSEARCH SOLUTION



Answers next month

Snowmen

Two snowmen were standing next to each other. One said to the other: "Can you smell carrots?"



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



1st Bedhampton Scouts

www.1stbedhampton.co.uk



I remember clearly a hike around 35 years ago when our 1st Bedhampton Scout Leader at the time pointed to a Mountain in the Brecon Beacons and said to our Patrol, "I'll meet you on the other side".

History repeated itself this week when I sent six Scouts off on the "South Downs Way" for the first Queen's Scout Award Expedition we have done for several years. After 2 days of hiking along the South Downs and staying overnight with minimal supervision, they reached their destination (and a well-deserved rest).



The Explorer Scouts had a Ready-Steady-Cook competition. Apparently the judges decided spaghetti bolognese was "off the menu" so they had to come up with something different. It looked good but this author doesn't pretend to be a master chef. Apparently I suggested "Beans were cooked" in a previous article. (They should only be heated! – Ed.)

The Cubs Scouts have recently done fire lighting and went for a hike on their own. It was not quite so long as the Scout one but apparently some Cubs were not so sure! Also, they had to manage without Akela.

The Beaver Scouts have been working on their Safety badge and as part of this they needed to go for a walk. We have covered a lot of miles this month.



The Cubs had a lovely night hike down to the shore and we even found some hedgehogs on the way back.



Finally, a personal thank you for all the kind wishes for Becky and my "Wedding part 2" (we renewed our vows and finally

had the wedding party with more than 15 people). We've finally decided to take a break from Wedding planning as we are expecting a New Vosper in January 2022.



Scouts Christmas Post

From both churches

December 5th for 2 weeks

Only for the elderly, disabled or housebound members of our community in Bedhampton.



Till next month, keep active, keep looking after yourselves and each other.

Nigel Vosper
Group Administrator

1st Bedhampton Brownies

Members of Bedhampton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides attended the Harvest Thanksgiving service on 10th October. It was a joy to join together with the community again after so long and to see the girls interact and help during the service and afterwards. All the girls enjoyed being there, especially the Brownie who told Max that she did not know Church could be such fun.

Janet Goring
District Co-ordinator

On Sunday we went to the Harvest Thanksgiving at St Thomas' Church. We thought the service was amazing and fun. The talk by Max was enjoyable and we all thought it was interesting to see what people chose to do with the money. The money given to Georgia was given back to Max to give to the foodbank. Kiya enjoyed taking the flag on behalf of the Brownies.

Georgia House
1st Bedhampton Brownie





Angel tidings

The little boy was to be an angel in the Christmas play and his one line was: "Behold, I bring you good tidings." He asked what tidings were and his mother explained that the word meant news.

On the night of the play, the youngster had stage fright and, after a long silence, he blurted out: "Hey, have I got news for you!"

Grandfathers

I was talking to my young Sunday School class, and a four-year-old boy suddenly asked me: "Miss, do you have a grandfather?"

I replied, "I used to have two, but they both went to Heaven to be with Jesus."

He thought, shook his head sadly and said, "One of my grandfathers hasn't gone to Heaven."

(Long pause while I tried to decide how to proceed.)

"He's gone to Bexhill-on-Sea."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Portsmouth Festival Choir
Priceless Treasures
 Saturday 4th December 7.30pm
 Church of the Resurrection, Drayton

Renaissance Choir
 Sunday 5th December 3.00pm
Christmas Celebration
 St James Church, Emsworth

Portsmouth Choral Union
Bach – Christmas Oratorio
 Saturday 11th December 7.30pm
 St Mary’s Church, Portsea

This Christmas, why not think about putting a **Nativity scene** in your front window, to remind passers-by of the real reason for Christmas?



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to so many of you who have taken boxes to fill. Completed boxes are now on their way to their destination.

Kim Day

It was 1500 years ago, on 7th December 521 that St Columba, Irish missionary who spread Christianity in Scotland, was born. He was one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland.



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Coffee Morning

We were pleased to welcome so many people to our Annual Coffee Morning, proceeds of which are divided between our funds and to support families in need of a break to be able to go away on an outing away from it all. People were sitting chatting happily round the tables with quiet music playing in the background. How wonderful it is to continue to meet up with our friends of many years after this long haul fighting the pandemic. The raffle organised by our branch leader Ann did well as did the sale of homemade cakes. Christine manned this stall with various helpers and I always look

forward to buying the homemade ginger cake. Ann, Christine and Barbara were the usual stalwarts plus many others.

We welcomed Sheila King who has been a stalwart supporter of our branch for many years, plus the team from the Diocese selling the usual Christmas goods. We are happy that so many of our members are able to attend our live meetings although some have become more incapacitated and unable to attend. These members are known as Indoor members and are still in the loop. Hopefully in the New Year we will be able to welcome back those who are worried about joining in gatherings where there are a lot of people.

We are now looking forward to the Trefoil Guild joining us for our November meeting when Max will speak about his trip to Ghana and our Christmas Meal at the Castle Inn, Rowlands Castle in December.

On behalf of all our members our thanks go to Ann for all her hard work and we look forward to more fun and friendship in the future.

Marion Machell



COMMUNITY EVENTS

MOTHERS' UNION DECEMBER

*Wednesday 1st Holy Communion
9.30am at St Thomas*

*Tuesday 7th December: Christmas
Lunch*

Venue: Castle Inn, Rowlands Castle

Portsmouth Arts Society



Thursday 9th December 2pm

Prague - the City of the Winter Queen

Speaker: Douglas Skeggs

Guests and non-members welcome.

St Nicholas Church

Contact:

info@theartsocietyportsdown.org.uk



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Friday morning
From 10 to 11am
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Everyone welcome

BIDBURY MEAD W.I.

Thursday 16th December

7.30 pm

Christmas Special

With Jane Glennie

St Nicholas Church

All welcome



BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Church Family

Archie Miller



REST IN PEACE

We pray for the families of those who have recently died.

Maggie Bishop
Bernard Stanley
Wendy Chaplen
Brian Grist



The Scouts Christmas Post

Post boxes will be in both churches from 5th December. Please label post clearly for the elderly, disabled or housebound members of our community.



We would like to thank you, our readers for your continued support. We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year 2022.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 4th December: 10am - 1pm
Havant Repair Café, The Pallant Centre, St Faith's Church Hall

Sunday 5th December: Messy Church
St Nicholas' Church - see p.5

Monday 6th December: Pause and Pray
St Thomas' Church 6pm

Christmas Services and events on page 3
St Thomas' and St Nicholas' Churches

Sunday 9th January: Christingle Service

JANUARY 2022

Magazine



For information about advertising and the 'Magazine by mail' service, contact the Parish Office (see below)

We warmly welcome advertisers to our magazine but the Parish does not accept responsibility for the quality of work carried out.

All material for the next issue should be sent to the Parish Office, St Nicholas Church, Belmont Grove, Bedhampton, PO9 3PU by 10 am on **Friday 3rd December**

Rector : Rev Max Cross 023 9248 3013

Email : Max@Bedhampton.church

Day off: Thursday

Churchwardens : Roger Matthews 023 9248 6175

Ann Partridge 023 9247 2180

Deputy Churchwardens : Sandra Matthews 023 9248 4669

Tracey Smith

Parish Administrator : Deb Vears 023 9248 3013

Parish Office open 9.30 am – 12.30 pm on Monday to Friday

Enquiries for Weddings, Baptisms

Email: Hello@Bedhampton.church

Services for DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY 5th

On-line

St Thomas 9.00 am

St Nicholas 10.30 am

St Thomas 4.00 pm

(Advent 2)

www.bedhampton.tv

Morning Prayer

Messy Church

Compline

SUNDAY 12th

St Thomas 9.00 am

St Nicholas 10.30 am

(Advent 3)

Holy Communion

Morning Worship

SUNDAY 19th

St Thomas 9.00 am

St Nicholas 10.30 am

St Thomas 4.00 pm

(Advent 4)

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

Carols by Candlelight

FRIDAY 24th

St Nicholas 4.00 pm

St Thomas 11.00 pm

(Christmas Eve)

Crib Service

Midnight Holy Communion

SATURDAY 25th

St Thomas 8.00 am

St Thomas 10.00 am

(Christmas Day)

Holy Communion

All Age Celebration with Holy Communion

SUNDAY 26th

St Thomas 10.00 am

(Boxing Day)

Holy Communion

ON-LINE: All services are either streamed live or later
at www.Bedhampton.tv and Facebook

ON-LINE services will be available from 4pm each Sunday.

MID-WEEK HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES

Wednesday 1st St Thomas 9.30 am MU Holy Communion

Wednesday 8th St Thomas 9.30 am Holy Communion

Wednesday 15th St Thomas 9.30 am Holy Communion

Wednesday 22nd St Thomas 9.30 am Holy Communion

ON-LINE Holy Communion Services: Thursdays at 10 am

Edited and produced by the Churches of St Thomas and St Nicholas

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