

Bedhampton Parish

St Thomas & St Nicholas

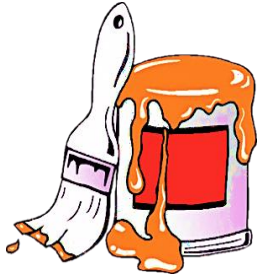


December
2023

Guide price
£1.00p

COMMUNITY

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Five years before the launch of the iPhone leading to dominance in their industry, "Think Different", was the strap line for Apple Computer inc. For some it became more than technology; they became almost religious in their relationship to Apple products. An approach grew that suggested if an individual used any other equipment then surely none of their views were to be trusted. The equipment purchased somehow became to define a person.

It would seem that this viewpoint is at the root of much evil in our world today. From the geopolitical stage, down to following a local football club and everything in between, Individuals become pigeonholed into one tribe or another. If you disagree or think differently to me in one area of life, then we cannot walk together in any area seems to be the prevailing narrative. To quote an ancient writing, there is nothing new under the sun. Two thousand years ago a human stepped onto the scene who called for us to love one another in our differences.

Into a world that said it was impossible to live in tension with one another came God himself to say it was truly possible. The babe in the manger came for the people who mocked that nothing good came from his hometown. The Christ child came to die for those who would call him blasphemous and seek to kill him. Jesus came for all who love him and all who deny him, he simply came for all. This Christmas season we celebrate the birth of a saviour who truly thinks differently. I believe Jesus would invite you and me to think differently as well; to think, unity, oneness and love this Christmas with all whom you agree with and all whom you disagree with.

In Bedhampton Parish we invite all to celebrate Christmas with us. We invite those who believe in a loving God to sing Christmas Carols with us. We invite those who have doubts to explore the story with us and ask questions. We invite those who have different beliefs and those who have no belief to enjoy the season with us. We invite those who think differently to us nevertheless to come and celebrate with us. With Christmas tree festivals, and Christmas journeys, with Carol services, and Nativity Crib celebrations, we invite you into a very merry Christmas to think differently.

Max

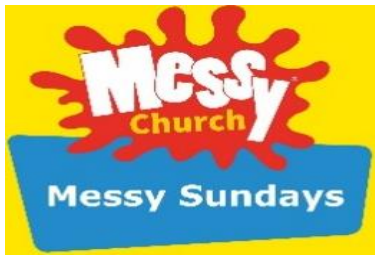
ALPHA

This February, Bedhampton is again 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 the Parish Office:
office@bedhampton.church

Sunday 3rd December,
10.30am at St Nicholas
Songs and craft for families
All welcome



FAMILY NEWS

We send our good wishes to all those who celebrate birthdays and anniversari this month, including Sandra Matthews and Allan Thompson. Also to Chris Tambling, mother of Tracey Smith who will celebrate her birthday on Christmas Day.



Pause And Pray

A time to pause and gather together to pray for our Borough for 1 hour.
Monday 11th December, 6 - 7pm
at Bridge Church, Hayling Island,
All welcome!

MILK BOTTLE TOPS – REMINDER

Many thanks to all those who bring milk bottle tops which raises money for a local hospice. BUT please remember to only bring **MILK** bottle tops. Others cannot be accepted.

The types of plastic can vary and do not recycle in the same way.

Cover: Follow the Star in Bedhampton

A BEDHAMPTON CHRISTMAS

As you might expect we love Christmas, and we love to celebrate Christmas.

Come and celebrate a [#BedhamptonChristmas](https://www.facebook.com/BedhamptonChristmas) with us this year.

Christmas Fayre at St Nicholas'

2:30pm Saturday 25th November.



Messy Christmas at St Nicholas' 10:30am Sunday 3rd December

All of the fun of Messy Church but with the extra fun of Christmas.

Christmas Tree Festival at St Thomas' Sunday 3rd December.

See Community Christmas Trees galore inside St Thomas' as you join in with Christmas carols. 9am – 4pm from Sunday 3rd December.

Carols By Candlelight at St Thomas' 6pm Sunday 10th December

The traditional carol service you love for the whole community. Set in our community 12th century Church with guest choir Folks in Harmony and candles, what could be more Christmassy?

Christmas Eve - Sunday 24th December

3pm Crib Service at St Nicholas'

Join in with all the fun of a scratch nativity. Come dressed as your favourite nativity character and you can be the star!



11:30pm Midnight Holy Communion at St Thomas'.

Silent Night Holy Night See Christmas day in with a Holy Communion and carols.

Christmas Day - Monday 25th December

10am All Age Celebration at St Thomas'.

Celebrate with this family friendly service on Christmas Day.



11.15am Said Holy Communion at St Thomas'.

Following the all age celebration there will be a opportunity to receive Holy Communion in a fifteen minute said service for those who wish to remain.

The first-ever nativity scene

This Christmas, thousands of Nativity plays will be held around the UK. But who staged the very first one? It was St Francis of Assisi, and it was 800 years ago, in Greccio, Italy, on 25th December 1223.

Born into a wealthy family, Francis abandoned his noble inheritance when he became a Christian. Instead, he had turned to a life of great simplicity, in service to Christ's church.



He spent many hours meditating on the stories of the life of Christ, and even travelled to the Holy Land in 1219 and 1220, to see the various holy sites of Jesus's life. The sites deeply moved him, as they brought the Bible stories to vibrant life.

Back in Italy, in November of 1223, Francis was in Rome, and he had an idea. Why not share something of the inspiration of the Holy Land with his people here in Italy? Barely 50 miles to the north, in Greccio, he knew many people to whom he had been ministering for years. He could at least show them something of the simplicity of the birth of Jesus. And so it was that, two weeks before Christmas, Francis asked his friend, the Lord of Greccio, Giovanni Velita, to prepare a nearby cave with live animals and a hay-filled manger.

That cave, beside some rocky crags, became the venue of the very first ever Nativity scene. On Christmas 1223, when the people of Greccio attended Christmas Mass as usual, they were invited to 'come and see' the simple scene.

According to his biographer, Brother Thomas of Celano, Francis wanted people to see what Jesus had "suffered for lack of the necessities of a new-born babe, and how He lay in the manger between the ox and ass."

According to eyewitness accounts of the moment, fires lit the dark scene while crowds arrived at the spot carrying candles and torches. It was an instant success, and soon other communities were staging their own.

It is now a Franciscan hermitage and sanctuary which is open to visitors. Every year at Christmas, the people of Greccio stage a live, historical re-enactment of St Francis and the first Nativity scene.

Pope Francis has visited the spot twice: in 2016 and then in 2019, when he signed an apostolic letter on the importance of Nativity scenes.

COMING IN JANUARY:

A week of prayer for Christian unity: 18th - 25th. More details in the January magazine.

ALPHA course: new in February and an invitation to confirmation.

The Manor Trust Christmas Fair

at The Elms, 2 Lower Road, Bedhampton
on **Saturday 2nd December**, 2-4pm.

Seasonal Stalls, Christmas Crafts,
Cakes & Preserves, Refreshments,
Raffle, Tombola.

Free Parking at Bidbury Mead
Recreation Ground P09 3JG.

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.

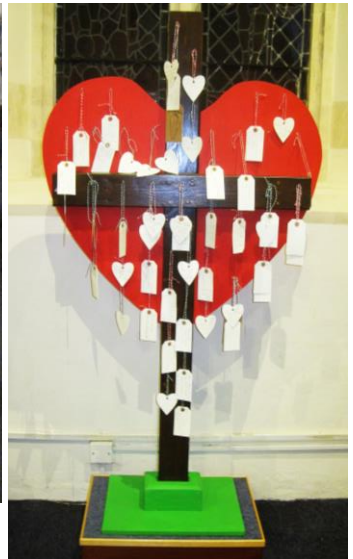
A SERVICE OF MEMORIES

A Memory Service was held in November to remember those who are no longer with us.

Hymns were sung and prayers were offered.

Candles were lit and labels hung on a memory tree.

Refreshments followed in the Parish Room with an opportunity to share memories



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Nativity Quiz in 20 Questions

1. Where did Mary and Joseph live before Jesus was born?
a) Nazareth b) Bethlehem c) Jerusalem
2. What was the name of the angel who told Mary she would have a child?
3. What did Joseph do for a living?
4. Who was the Roman ruler when Jesus was born?
5. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
6. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
7. Why couldn't Mary and Joseph find a place to stay?
8. Where does the Bible say Jesus was born?
a) In a stable b) In hay c) In a manger
9. According to the Bible, which animals were specifically mentioned as being present in the stable when Jesus was born?
a) sheep and a donkey b) cattle and a donkey c) donkey, sheep and cattle d) None
10. What does the angel say to the shepherds when they tell them to go to Bethlehem?
11. The wise men travelled to Jerusalem. a) northward b) southward c) eastward d) westward
12. What did the Wise Men follow to find Jesus?
13. How many Wise Men visited baby Jesus?
14. What gifts did the wise men bring for Jesus?
15. Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem?
16. What is the City of David also known as in the bible?
17. Which of the gospels tell the story of the Nativity?
18. What does Jesus' other name, "Immanuel", mean? a) God with us b) Son of God c) He who is God d) Chosen One
19. How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give him the name Jesus?
20. Jesus was born on the 25th of December. True or false?



Answers on page 16

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. See December 2021.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX APPEAL

Thank you for all the completed Shoe Boxes they have now been taken to the drop off point ready to be delivered in time for Christmas. Thank you again for all the generous gifts and supporting this appeal and bringing joy to many children.

Updates on this appeal and all the work this charity carries out and ways to help can be found on the Samaritans Purse website.

Thank you, *Kim*

The Rowans Hospice

Special Christmas Collection: 17th December

The hospice is a charity providing free care and support to adults in our community who have a life-limiting illness and their families. Many people think that hospices are all about dying. But through our many different services, we support people to live as well as they can with their illness, from the moment of diagnosis through to bereavement support. The Living Well Services put the emphasis on *living* with a life-limiting illness. Right up to end of life, the care is about helping people live every moment to the full in comfort and dignity, working in close partnership with our community nurses and NHS partners to support a patient's choice when it comes to where they will die. The Hospice At Home team provide the same medical care that is available in the Hospice and can give advice

Chaplain Rev Carol Gully will be joining us on **Sunday 17th December** to tell us more of the work that happens in our local hospice.

BEDHAMPTON VOLUNTEERS

The Volunteers have been kept busy in recent weeks, not only planting bulbs and donated plants and shrubs but also clearing areas and generally tidying up in various corners of the Bedhampton area. Bags of rubbish have been cleared so do appreciate the environment and do your own bit to keep the area looking bright and clean. Please take your rubbish home with you.

We look forward to the spring bulbs and other colourful displays, the results of efforts made by all the Volunteers. Many thanks to all of them.



COMMUNITY NEWS

CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Saturday 25th November

2.30 – 4.30pm

**St Nicholas Church
Bedhampton**



St Faith's Church, Havant
Lunchtime Concerts, 12.30pm

*Come and Sing: Choral Evensong
Sunday 26th November
Rehearsal: 4pm.*

Folks in Harmony
A Christmas Punch
Saturday 9th December 7.30pm
St Wilfred's Church, Cowplain

Chantry Quire - **Sing Noel!**
St Nicholas Church, Arundel
Saturday 16th December, 4pm

St Nick's Flicks

will meet again on

Tuesday

19th December

1.45 for 2pm

at St Nicholas' Church

A free film show with refreshments.

Enquiries to Parish Office.

All welcome – no need to book.



Beacon Food Bank contributions can be made at Asda, Tesco, and Waitrose, or in the black box at the Rectory in Bidbury Lane.

The food bank is most in need of:

Tinned meals Tinned puddings
Tinned fruit and veg Rice, jam spreads
Pot noodles/ Packet noodles
Coffee and sugar Toiletries

Thank you for your support.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Havant Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 9th December, 2.30pm

Piano Concerto No.2 – Rachmaninov

Soloist: Valentina Seferinova

Coppelia - Delibes, Hansel & Gretel -

Humperdinck, Christmas Music

Oaklands School, Waterlooville



Renaissance Choir – 2nd December, 7.30pm
Christmas Carols for Rowans Hospice
at St Marys, Portsea.

Cantemus Choir – 2nd December, 7.30pm
Britten – Ceremony of Carols; Jubilate
St James Church, Emsworth

Portsmouth Baroque Choir, 9th December
Havant & Emsworth URC Church. 7.00pm
37 North St. Havant

Portsmouth Choral Union, 16th December
Handel: Messiah 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Portsea

The Story Behind the Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Many of the carols we sing have a rich theological tradition, and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!” is no exception. It was written by Charles Wesley, who was an English Methodist leader and hymn writer. **Wesley wrote over 6,000 hymns, more than any other male writer.**

The first stanza describes the good news of the saviour’s birth. God has sent the One who will reconcile the sinner back to Himself. Therefore, **all the nations should rise and sing and proclaim the good news, which is Christ the King!** The next stanza speaks to the mysticism of Christ’s coming and the good news in it. The final stanza tells of the accomplishment of Christ and the power that it brings.

For well over two hundred years, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” has been a Gospel-saturated anthem pointing people to the Saviour, loaded with rich theology.

As you sing carols this Christmas, take the time to think about the message of the songs and what they mean. Consider the words you are singing and the truths they proclaim about the Saviour you are worshipping.

The text, *based on Luke 2:14, tells of an angelic chorus singing praises to God.*

Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”

The singing of Christmas carols was abolished in England by the Puritan Parliament in 1649, under the leadership of the famous Oliver Cromwell. As a result of Parliament’s ruling, Christmas hymns and carols were scarce between the late 17th and the early 18th Century in England. Charles Wesley’s “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” was one of the few written during that period that became popular wherever Christians gathered during Advent. After Cromwell died in 1658 and the monarchy was soon restored, the former decision to prohibit the singing of Christmas carols was abandoned. Thus, hymns written to honour the birth of Jesus began to appear and have continued to this day.

Wesley’s “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” is one of the most popular Christmas carols today, but both Wesley’s words and tune have been changed. The first line of the hymn originally read, “Hark! how all the welkin rings, Glory to the King of Kings.” They were changed in 1753 by George Whitefield, a famous English preacher. Wesley insisted that his hymn be sung to a slow, sombre, and “boring” religious tune. It wasn’t until the words were paired with a more upbeat melody that it became popular. The current tune for this carol was composed by Mendelssohn, who himself was a Messianic Jew. The hymn that we now sing is the result of many alterations by numerous individuals and hymnal editorial committees.

HAVANT TREFOIL GUILD ASSOCIATION

We are almost at the end of a busy fun packed year when our guild have been busy with our various challenges which had to be completed during this year, the 80th year since Trefoil Guild was established in 1943. I believe I mentioned before that various small groups of ex guide leaders had met during the years of 1937 – 1943.

I am proud to say Havant is recorded as having been the first one in the area to have had one such group in 1937. These ladies were not very impressed with their name of 'old guides' so the name of The Trefoil Guild Association was warmly welcomed.

Our challenges were 80 items from different categories. This was headed from small acorns to giant oaks. A further complication was the WOW (wellbeing our way) challenges were also running. It stands for Keep Learning, Take Notice, Be Active, Give, Connect and Support, and Care for the Environment.

Our activities covered songs and poems about trees, drawing our family trees, looking at local oak trees, research of the various species of oak, including the oak tree which produces cork. There is not enough space to tell of all our fun meetings researching and growing plants and bulbs, etc. and reporting of our walks in various parks, I am pleased to say we have now gained both the relevant badges for 2023. *Below: growing the tallest sunflowers; Crafting activities*

Above right: at the New Theatre Royal; more crafting





In addition to this we have supported Emsworth Trefoil Guild at their fundraising sale, attended their fund raising concert and organised the Beetle Evening to raise money for Bedhampton District Guides.

Here are some thoughts on exploring our local areas written by our Trefoiler Janet. "For our October Trefoil Meeting we went to St Peter's Church, Hayling Island. Our Guide was Avril Stouse, the church warden and a member of Hayling Island Trefoil. Built in around 1140, the church has many historical items and facts. A beautiful, friendly, interesting visit ending with tea and cake in the ARK Our thanks go to Avril for being a lovely hostess."

This very last Saturday 28th October, five of us attended the Annual East Hampshire Friendship Service also held at St. Peter's. The church was packed and prior to the service we were entertained by the East Hants Singing Circle. The singing was lovely and we are proud to say one of our Bedhampton Brownie/Guide Leaders is one of the singers. The speaker was the new CEO for the Roberts Centre who gave a very interesting talk about the work of the centre. The retiring collection went to this very good cause. Several Trefoil are also members of Mothers' Union who also support the Roberts Centre. We are looking forward to our November meeting at Marion's house and meal at the Castle Inn in December when we join with M.U. who organise this event. In the meantime we wish everyone a Happy Christmas and healthy and happy 2024.

Another photo on page 15

Marion Machell

BACK IN TIME in December

800 years ago, on 25th December 1223 St Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene, in Greccio, Italy, after visiting Jesus' birthplace in the Holy Land. It proved enormously popular and inspired other communities to stage their own nativity scenes.

250 years ago, on 16th December 1773 the Boston Tea Party took place in Massachusetts. American patriots boarded ships and threw chests of tea belonging to the British East India Company into Boston Harbour, as a protest against the British tax on tea.

200 years ago, on 23rd December 1823 the poem *The Night Before Christmas* was first published (anonymously) in the Sentinel newspapers in Troy, New York. It was written by Clement Clarke Moore.

175 years ago – on 19th December 1848 Emily Bronte, British novelist and poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 30. Best known for her only novel, *Wuthering Heights*.

100 years ago: on 6th December 1923 Ramsay MacDonald became the first Labour Prime Minister.

100 years ago on 31st December 1923 the BBC broadcast the chimes of Big Ben for the first time, to welcome in the New Year. The tradition continues to this day.

80 years ago, on 22nd December 1943 Beatrix Potter, children's writer and illustrator, died. She created animal characters including Peter Rabbit, Squirrel Nutkin, Mrs Tigger-Winkle, Jemima Puddle-Duck, and many more.

75 years ago, on 24th December 1948 the first Midnight Mass to be televised was broadcast from St Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

65 years ago, on 5th December 1958 Britain's first motorway, the Preston By-pass, was officially opened. (It is now part of the M6 and M55.)

60 years ago, on 21st December 1963 the Daleks made their first appearance on the British science fiction TV series *Doctor Who*.

50 years ago, on 21st December 1973 the Geneva Conference opened in Switzerland, aimed at finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. No agreement was reached, but Israel signed a military disengagement agreement with both Egypt and Syria in 1974.

30 years ago, on 30th December 1993 Israel and the Vatican City agreed to recognise each other and established diplomatic relations.

25 years ago, on 10th December 1998 the UN General Assembly listed anti-Semitism as a form of racism.

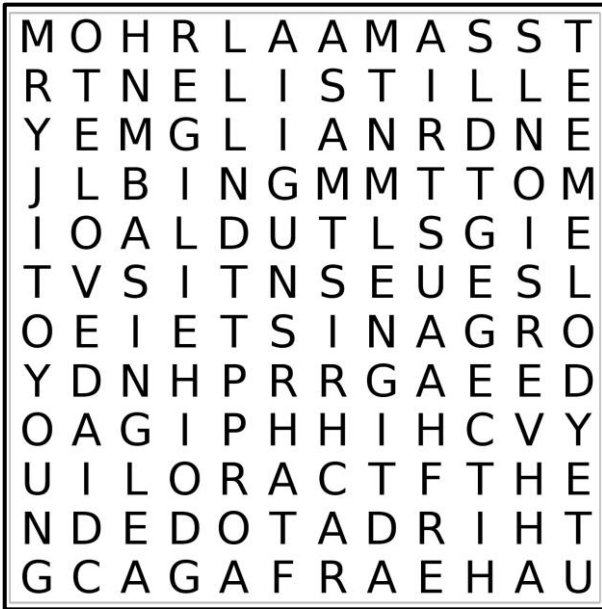
Also 25 years ago, on 10th December 1998 the Palestine Liberation Organisation voted to remove clauses in its charter that called for Israel's destruction.

20 years ago, on 1st December 2003 using a handheld mobile phone while driving became illegal in the UK.

10 years ago, on 5th December 2013 Nelson Mandela died. Winner of Nobel Peace Prize.

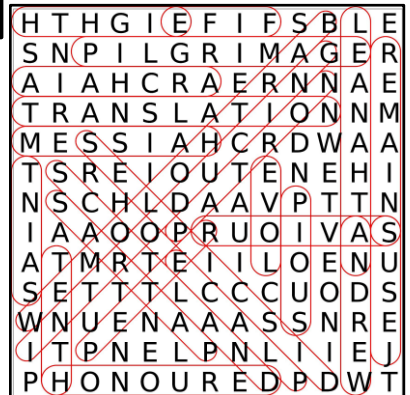
Wordsearch – The story of ‘Silent Night’

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.



- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| Silent | Christmas |
| Night | Eve |
| Loved | Father |
| Carol | Joseph |
| Austria | Mohr |
| First | Young |
| Sung | Priest |
| Stille | Organist |
| Nacht | Midnight |
| Heilige | Mass |
| Melody | Bing |
| Single | Version |
| | Third |

Answers next month
NOVEMBER SOLUTION





Scouts Camping Activities

www.1stbedhampton.co.uk

On Saturday 22nd October, eleven Cubs and nine Scouts along with Leaders arrived at South Harting for a weekend camp. Tents were erected in the sunshine and the camp somewhat organised before the clouds darkened and downpours ensued. The Scouts contemplated building an Ark before deciding on a very wet bike ride to the top of the Downs.



Cubs equally undeterred built a fire and melted wax to create some lovely colourful vanilla scented candles. They also learned that wax floats. Some shelter was taken in Rupert's Barn for some pyrography (burning wood) and personalized wooden coasters were created. The rain stopped for an evening of laser gun tag and campfire. Sunday arrived clear and dry, early birds had a great view of both Venus and Jupiter opposite each other in the morning sky. After breakfast conkers were collected, sticks whittled, games played, and lunch eaten before it was all too soon time to pack up and return home tired and more than a little muddy.

Thank you to the Church for once again letting us dry out wet tents in the hall.

Around the sections, Scouts have enjoyed fire lighting and toasted marshmallows. Cubs have been on a night hike from Waterlooville to Bedhampton, bobbed for apples and made toffee apples. Beavers have been looking at Insects and making animal and insects from natural materials.

Thank you to everyone who helps in Scouting you are all very much appreciated.

Judy Colwell (Akela)

Left: Jupiter shining brightly in recent clear skies, seen, photographed and appreciated by the Cubs.



Right: Trefoil members Peggy and Janet relaxing in the grounds of Foxlease Activity Centre with many others who had gathered.

Below right: Scouts fire lighting and enjoying toasted marshmallows !



Beatrix Potter

80 years ago on 22nd December 1943, Beatrix Potter, the children’s writer and illustrator, died. Her animal characters such as Peter Rabbit, Squirrel Nutkin, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle and Jemima Puddle-Duck brought her worldwide fame and made her loved by children around the world. She had enjoyed an upper-middle-class childhood, but it was also solitary. Instead of friends, she was given numerous pets and spent holidays in Scotland and the Lake District, where she learned to love landscape, flora and fauna. Beatrix Potter was in her thirties when she first self-published *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* in 1902. Its immense success meant that she began writing and illustrating children's books full-time. In all, she wrote more than 60 books. She used the sales of her books and a legacy from an aunt in 1905 to buy Hill Top Farm in Near Sawrey, a village in the Lake District.



When in 1903 Peter Rabbit was made into a patented stuffed toy, he became the first fictional character to have this honour.

COMMUNITY

Nativity Quiz Answers:

1. Nazareth
2. Gabriel
3. Carpenter
4. Caesar Augustus
5. To register for the census
6. We are not told in the Bible
7. There was no room at the inn
8. c) In a manger
9. d) None
10. 'Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will to all people'



11. d) westward
12. A star
13. The Bible doesn't say
14. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
15. The shepherds
16. Bethlehem
17. Matthew and Luke
18. a) God with us
19. 8, according to the law
20. False; we don't know the date.

Christmas in my heart

Christmas is in my heart twelve months a year and, thanks to credit cards, it's also on my Visa card statement twelve months a year.



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Autumn Activities

On Saturday 28th October we held our annual Coffee Morning in St. Nicholas' Church hall. This is always a well-attended occasion, allowing friends to meet over coffee for a catch up and to help us raise much-needed funds for the MU. In addition to the sale of some delicious looking cakes and some very good prizes from the raffle, we were joined by members from other MU branches who sold Christmas cards to also help raise funds for MU projects.

Mothers' Union funds raise money for projects across the world. We particularly support AFIA [Apart From It All], a holiday scheme which gives families in the UK, who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life, an opportunity to spend time together away from stressful situations.

Mothers' Union has also recently launched the RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse challenge throughout GB and Ireland to ensure that activism against domestic abuse and gender-based violence happens throughout 365 days a year.

At Bedhampton we meet on the fourth Tuesday each month and if you would like to have more information on our Branch meetings or our work in general please contact our Branch Leader, Ann Partridge via the Parish Office. We welcome new members of all ages and our next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th November. It is the Annual Deanery Service and will be held at St Thomas Church commencing at 2.30pm.

Marie Payne
Branch Secretary

Getting ready for Christmas...

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.



Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



MOTHERS' UNION DECEMBER

*Wednesday 6th Holy Communion
9.30am at St Thomas
Tuesday 12th Christmas lunch*

All welcome

Contact Marie Payne: 07929 776687

The Arts
Society
Portsmouth



Sing We Yule

A musical portrait
of a medieval Christmas

Speaker: Sarah Deere Jones

Thursday 14th December, 2pm
at the Spring Arts Centre, Havant



FUN CLUB

For babies and toddlers
parents or carers
at St Nicholas on

Thursdays 9 – 11 am in term time

Lots of fun things to do;
songs, art and craft;
tea and chat for adults.

Contact Sally on
023 9247 5078
or just come along.



St Nicholas Church

Two halls and a well-equipped kitchen
available for private hire, children's parties,
etc.

Please contact the office
on 023 9248 3013

Hello@Bedhamptonparish.org.uk

**St Nicholas
Belmont Grove
Bedhampton**



Come and join us
Once a week
Friday morning
From 10.30 to 12 noon
Enjoy coffee or tea and cake
Everyone welcome



We would like to thank all our
readers for their continued support
for our Parish Magazine.

We wish all our readers a very Happy
and peaceful Christmas and every
good wish for the New Year.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Church Family

No Baptisms this month.



WEDDINGS

We wish every happiness for the future to those recently married



Charlotte Staff & Matthew Brooks

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the families of those who have recently died
John Marshman



MAGAZINE

Having kept our charges as low as possible for several years, we announce that in 2024 the Magazine price will be £1 per copy and £12 for a one-year subscription.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 2nd December: The Manor Trust Christmas Fair at the Elms, 2 pm.

Saturday 9th December: Folks in Harmony St Wilfred's, Cowplain. *See p.21*

18th-25th January: Week of prayer for Christian Unity

JANUARY 2024

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 1st December**

For the January edition

Office@Bedhampton.church

Rector : Rev Max Cross 023 9248 3013

Email : Max@Bedhampton.church

*Day off: **Saturday***

Assistant Curate: Rev. Jill Kingston 023 9279 0844

Email : Jill@Bedhampton.church

*Day off: **Friday***

Churchwardens : Ann Partridge 023 9247 2180

Tracey Smith

Deputy Churchwardens : Sandra Matthews 023 9248 4669

Mike Tritton 023 9247 5078

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 2023

SUNDAY 3rd

St Thomas 9.00 am
St Nicholas 10.30 am
 St Thomas 4.00 pm
 On-line service 5.00pm

(Advent 1)

Holy Communion
Messy Christmas
 Compline
 (St Thomas)

SUNDAY 10th

St Thomas 9.00 am
St Nicholas 10.30 am
 St Thomas 6.00pm

(Advent 2)

Holy Communion
Morning Worship
 Candlelight Carols

SUNDAY 17th

St Thomas 9.00 am
St Nicholas 10.30am
 St Thomas 4.00 pm
 On-line service 5.00 pm

(Advent 3)

Morning Praise
Holy Communion
 Celtic Evening Prayer
 (*St Nicholas*)

SUNDAY 24th

St Thomas
St Nicholas **10.00am**
St Nicholas 3.00pm
 St Thomas 11.30pm

(Advent 4)

No service
Shared service of Holy Communion
Crib Service
 Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

MONDAY 25th

St Thomas **10.00 am**

(Christmas Day)

Family Christmas Celebration

SUNDAY 31st

St Thomas 10.00am

(Christmas 1)

Holy Communion (shared service)

ON-LINE: Where an on-line service mentions a church,
 at www.Bedhampton.tv and Facebook

MID-WEEK HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES

Wednesday 6th	St Thomas	9.30 am	Holy Communion (M.U.)
Wednesday 13th	St Thomas	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 20th	St Thomas	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 3rd Jan.	St Thomas	9.30 am	Holy Communion

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

www.Bedhampton.church



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www.manortrust.org.uk



Saturday

9th December

7.30pm

Admission **£8**
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St Wilfrid's Church
Padnell Road, Cowplain,
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enquiries@dksinharmony.co.uk

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