

Bedhampton Parish

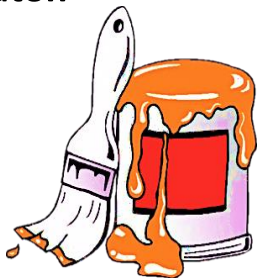


December
2024

£1.00p

COMMUNITY

Gary Beaton



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& Exterior
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Community Centre**

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www.bedhamptoncommunity.org



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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.



Community is for life, not just for Christmas!

'Tis the season to be jolly as we head into the Advent and Christmas festival. It is one of those times in the year when we as a church in Bedhampton engage most with those we are called to encourage in our community. As you might expect come December, we are in full Christmas mode. There will be Carols by Candlelight, Messy Christingle, Crib Nativity, Midnight Mass, Follow the Star Competition and the ever-popular Nativity Journey to name just a few community events this year.

We love the fact we can put all this on for our community because our purpose strapline is, "Serving the community of Bedhampton by sharing God's love and friendship." What does this mean if we truly are to be one community, not driving division but uniting all within it? If I may borrow another strapline it means, community is for life, not just for Christmas. Perhaps you might think your local church is just for Christmas but as I look at my diary for 2024, I am grateful for the community we have in Bedhampton.

I remember going into our local schools in January as I do every month, this time we looked at what new beginnings meant as we encouraged the young people. In March we supported Kids Clothes Line, a magnificent community charity and then there was a great Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Along the way there was the regular Fun Club toddler group, Scouts, Guides, and their associated groups, the monthly afternoon seniors film club and of course the Friday coffee and cake community group.

I am not sure if my favourite community event was the Bedhampton Summer Show or the time we had to have two big gatherings because so many couples wanted to renew their vows in our Marriage Celebration weekends. Some of the most poignant moments have of course been when we met with our neighbours to help them with funerals and in their grief.

continued

PARISH NEWS

At the other end of the spectrum, there was joy with the celebrations of new life at Thanksgivings and Christenings and the coming together in the Weddings we hosted in our community. Our Memory Service and the community Remembrance bring us back once again to Christmas.

Out of sheer concern that it may sound a little like we are patting ourselves on the back, I have neglected to mention so many other community-focused parts of our simple little local church. This, however, is not a self-congratulating moment, for we are no different to many others who know that community is for life, not just for Christmas. Maybe, however, Christmas can be a great excuse to remind ourselves that we are all one community. To put aside the tribalism and division we see in our news headlines and social media. To take a steer from the Prince of Community and to love our neighbour. This is your invitation to come together as one community in Bedhampton. There are details of all our Christmas opportunities at www.Bedhampton.church and in this magazine. Come on down and have a very Merry Christmas.

Max Cross



Pause And Pray

A time to pause and gather together to pray for our Borough for 1 hour.

Monday 9th December, 6 - 7pm
at St Thomas Church, Bedhampton.

Bidbury Lane, PO9.

All welcome

FAMILY NEWS

We send our good wishes to all those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this month including Sandra Matthews and Chris Tambling.



St Nick's Flicks

will meet again on

Tuesday

17th 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.



BEDHAMPTON CALENDAR

Why not take some local photos for a Bedhampton calendar.

Keep taking photos – they may be submitted for any year.



Please send to the Parish Office. Hard copy photos will be returned to you.

*Cover: The Christmas Experience
in Bedhampton*



Bubble Church is a free puppet-packed, packed, Jesus-centred coffee- and-croissant fuelled 30 minute kids and families adventure.

Bubble Church at Bedhampton Parish is on the third Sunday of every month at 9.30am at St Nicholas Church.



All are welcome to Messy Church which usually takes place on each first Sunday of the month, 10.30am at St Nicholas Church. There are craft activities, songs and stories for the whole family.

Refreshments available.

Christmas Geese

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: *'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!'* So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm.

They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: *'Why don't they follow me?!'* Then he realised: *'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.'* Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas, let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. *'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us''.* Matthew 1: 23.

Canon Paul Hardingham: Parish Pump



CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS



The Children's Society

It has been decided that, in addition to our regular Giving for chosen charities on Mission Sundays, collections from all our Christmas services will be donated to The Rowans Hospice. As many of you will know, The Rowans is a charity and all care is provided free of charge to patients and their families in south east Hampshire. Ninety per cent of their income is generated by legacies, donations and fundraising and, at this time particularly, with the increased financial pressures on hospices, I hope you will feel able to give generously to support them.

Roy Payne

Chair, World Mission Committee

If you have access to the Internet, you can read more at www.rowanhospice.co.uk where it highlights some of the wonderful work which The Rowans does.

As advertised, the Christingle service will be held during the Messy Church event on Sunday 1st December at 10.30am at St. Nicholas Church. All are welcome.



Collections taken at this time will be donated to the Children's Society.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX APPEAL

Once again thank you so very much to everyone who supported the Shoe Box appeal this year.

The completed boxes have been taken to the drop off location and will be delivered in time for Christmas.

We have been supporting this charity for many years now and by sending a Shoe box full of gifts is a way to show God's love and that we care to children in need around the world. Thank you once again.

Kim Day



The Scouts local post delivery will be available this month from St Thomas and St Nicholas.

ALPHA COURSE – coming in February

Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone is welcome. Starting in the new year, no matter your background or beliefs, you are invited. I am inviting you to be curious and explore faith with me and others.



Connection

Life is better together. Alpha brings together people from all walks of life who are curious about faith. Each session starts with some time to eat, relax and get to know your group.

Content

Each session covers a different topic of faith, either in a short talk or video. The Alpha episodes are designed to engage and inspire conversation. They are about thirty minutes long and explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions such as Who is Jesus?, How can we have faith? and How does God guide us?

Conversation

The last part of an Alpha is a chance to share your thoughts on the session's topic and discuss it in your small groups. It's an open and welcoming environment, no matter what your opinion. There's no pressure to say anything, but the floor is yours if you do want to.

Max Cross



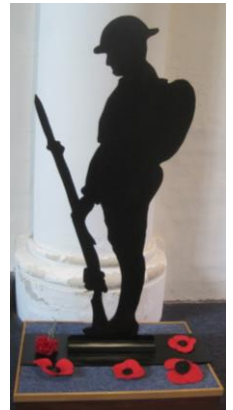
REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Sunday 10th November, people came together at St Thomas Church to remember those who have lost their lives in both the first and second world wars, together with Northern Ireland, Korea, the Falklands, Afghanistan and Iraq and many other conflicts worldwide.

The Last Post was sounded by the trumpeter, followed by the two minutes silence and Reveille.

The Kohima Epitaph was read, followed by the laying of a wreath at the War Memorial.

Traditional hymns for the occasion were sung, together with prayers for peace and for all those involved or affected by war. This was followed by a short service of Holy Communion.



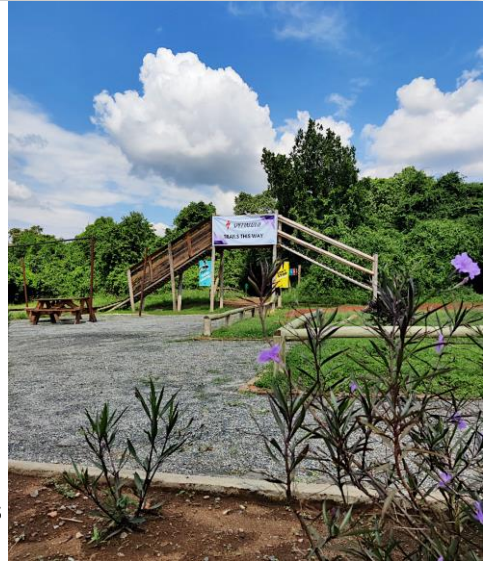
PARISH NEWS

GREAT NEWS FROM UGANDA

From our Family in Kampala

A message to share 3 bits of GREAT NEWS!

1. The Bike Park officially opens on the 7th December. It's going to get kicked off with a pump track race with exciting prizes for the four fastest laps on the track!
2. The winner of the Bike Raffle wanted to remain anonymous as they would like us to sell it and use the money towards furthering the Bike Park!
3. We have £8,000 to match fund on the 3rd December for Musizi Joy and the Bike Park! This would set both our teams up for a year's salary and would be INCREDIBLE!



We were so excited about all this news (especially the Bike Park opening!) we wanted to share with you! We just can't thank you enough for all your prayers, support and financial donations which has made this possible !! There have been many times Sam was ready to pack it all in, many highs and lows, lots of learnings and struggles! But the fact the Bike Park is officially opening is just incredible. We just want to thank each one of you for making it possible. Any contribution towards us as a family or to the Bike Park has made an impact! Thank you thank you! We are so excited to see more and more people use the



space, to host events, to champion young people! This Bike Park is going to bless so many, it already is! Kids play on the Playpark daily! And the pump track is used weekly! We have so many more dreams and hopes for how to develop the space but for now we are thrilled to open, to have a cafe, toilets, water and power!!!

We are excited to make some more money for the Bike Park by selling the bike, so thank you for our generous winner!

Finally our Big Give campaign starts on 3rd December for a week! If you fancy having your funds doubled and helping staff get year long contracts the link is here

<https://donate.biggive.org/campaign/a056900002TPWZpAAP>

Sam & Chloe, Zara Grace, Arabella & Zeke

The story behind 'Santa Claus is coming to Town...

90 years ago, on 24th October 1934 the earliest known recording of the song *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town* was released. Performed by banjo player Harry Reser and his band and sung by Tom Stacks, it has since been recorded by more than 200 other artists.

It is one of the most famous Christmas songs of all time, even if it does make Father Christmas sound like a horror movie villain in the lyrics.

It was written by John Frederick Coots and Haven Gillespie. Gillespie was a prolific song writer, and wrote the lyrics of the song, while Coots wrote the music. In 1934, when Gillespie brought Coots the lyrics, Coots came up with the main melody in just ten minutes. Coots then took the song to his publisher, Leo Feist Inc, who liked it but thought it was "a kids' song" and didn't expect much success.

Coots offered the song to American entertainment giant Eddie Cantor, who used it on his radio show in November 1934, and it became an instant hit. The morning after the radio show, there were orders for 100,000 copies of sheet music and by Christmas, sales had passed 400,000. The earliest known recorded version of the song was by banjoist Harry Reser on October 24, 1934, featuring Tom Stacks on vocals. The song was also recorded in 1935 by Tommy Dorsey & His Orchestra, with vocals by Cliff Weston and Edythe Wright. In 1947, Bing Crosby and The Andrews Sisters scored a hit with a cover, and it has since been recorded and performed countless times by many other well known singers.

'Santa Claus is Comin' to Town'

You better watch out, you better not cry
Better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

He's making a list and checking it twice
Gonna find out who's naughty and nice
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

He sees you when you're sleepin'
He knows when you're awake
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake.

Oh! You better watch out, you better not cry
Better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

With little tin horns and little toy drums
Rooty toot toots and rummy tum tums
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

And curly head dolls that toddle and coo
Elephants, boats, and kiddie cars too
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

Then kids in Girl and Boy land
will have a jubilee
They're gonna build a Toyland
all around the Christmas tree.



COMMUNITY NEWS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Lee Choral Society
Into Winter

Autumn concert with a hint of Christmas
Saturday 30th November, 7.00pm
St Faith's Church, Lee on the Solent

Gemini Consort
A Winter offering

Saturday 30th November, 7.30pm
St Peter's Church, Petersfield
Wassail songs, Poulenc, Macmillan,
Monteverdi

Havant Symphony Orchestras

New website: havantorchestras.org

War and Peace

Saturday 7th December
1.30pm and 3.30pm

Oaklands Concert Hall Waterlooville
The Snowman by Howard Blake

Chantry Quire

Christmas Concert

Saturday 14th December 4.00pm
St Nicholas Church, Arundel
(opposite Arundel Cathedral)

Manor Trust
Bedhampton
Heritage & Care

Bedhampton Manor Trust
Autumn events

Tuesday 7th December
2-4pm Christmas Fair
£2 entry includes hot drink
and mince pie

5.30pm Christmas Carols
and mulled wine

Portsmouth Music Festival 2025

www.portsmouthmusicfestival.co.uk

Portsmouth Choral Union

Christmas Carols

Sunday 14th December, 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Fratton
With Castle Primary School Choir

Cantemus Choir
'Eternal Night'

Gloria – John Rutter;
Eternal Light, Requiem -Howard Goodall

Saturday 30th November, 7.30pm
St Faith's Church, Havant.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Nutcracker Magic

Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto
Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker Ballet music

Thursday 5th December, 7.00pm
Portsmouth Guildhall

Portsmouth Baroque Choir

Christmas Concert

Schofield, Byrd, Stanford, Holst & more
Saturday 7th December, 7.00pm

Havant United Reform Church
North Street, Havant

Renaissance Choir

Christmas Concert

St James Church Emsworth
Saturday 14th December, 7.30pm

Solent Male Voice Choir
Christmas Concert with Ukrainian Volya Choir
Thursday 19th December 7.00pm
St Faith's Church, Havant.

Hedgehog extinction fears grow as population plummets

The status of hedgehogs in western Europe has recently been downgraded to “near threatened”, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

If European numbers decline any farther, hedgehogs will be listed as being at risk of extinction. Numbers have shrunk in more than half the countries where hedgehogs live – including the UK, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria. Some national declines have been as much as 33 per cent.



Our rural population of hedgehogs here in the UK has fallen by up to 75 per cent since 2000, although city-dwelling hedgehogs are doing a bit better. But the combined pressures of intensive agriculture, domestic pesticides, garden strimmers, busy roads and urban development have taken their toll. An eighth of all hedgehogs in the UK die every year just as roadkill. (Sadly we see this too often.)

Now a national hedgehog conservation strategy has been launched by the People’s Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS).

As I include this article this month, I am reminded that in recent weeks, we have had a regular visitor to our garden, a healthy sizeable hedgehog running round our garden. As advised we have tried putting out meaty cat food for it, only to find large birds scavenging, as they too are struggling to find food. It scurries out from the shrubs across the grass, sniffing for anything it can find to eat. It has also been seen crossing the road to other gardens (a risky thing to do!) before returning to have another look. To help feed them, we learn that they like wet or dry cat or dog food (but not fish) and should be offered water, but not milk as it can cause sickness. Bread should not be offered either.

By now most hedgehogs should have found places to hibernate for the winter. *Ed.*

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 WE CREATE.**

PARISH NEWS

ANNE NELLTHORP remembered

Born on 2nd January 1934, Anne was the eldest daughter of Edith and Leonard Bealing of Winchester, one of three daughters. Anne went to a Winchester Primary School and then on to the Winchester County High School for girls. Leaving at 16, she went to work at the County Hospital in the Finance Department as a Wages Clerk.

In 1956 Geoff Nellthorp joined the Accounts Department and Anne and her colleague placed bets as to who would go out with him first ! They compromised and Geoff was asked to bring a friend and make up a foursome. They all went to see the Pirates of Penzance, a Gilbert & Sullivan Comic opera, at the local Guildhall.



Geoff was lucky enough in those days to have a motorcycle which he used for his travel to work (and pleasure when he could afford to go out!). Geoff continued his friendship with Anne but Malcolm did not have a repeat with Jean. Geoff then took Anne to see a war film at the Odeon Cinema (probably a D Day film or similar) . Visits to each other's homes followed, which was not easy for Anne as it involved a one hour bus ride from Winchester to West Meon, a country village about 14 miles by bus from Winchester. However, she stuck it out and occasionally Mr Nellthorp, Geoff's dad, had to ask a local neighbour to get his old transport out and take Anne home (12 miles distant) as it wouldn't have gone down too well with Anne's father who was a bit of a stickler for safety to his brood of girls!

By now, Geoff had obtained a better job at Aldermaston, an MOD establishment near Reading, but it necessitated him living in a hostel from Monday to Friday and then getting public transport back to Winchester. Anne and Geoff subsequently got married as he found out that they could get a small house for rental if they were married ! So he found a caravan for rental on a small country plot near Reading where they could walk to a local bus route to go to work. By then Anne had been accepted for an office machinery position and they could go to work by bus together ! Lunchtimes were a bonus as there was a cafeteria where meals could be purchased.

After about 12 months they were able to move into a brand new semi detached house at Baughurst Common in Berkshire. Much of the early furnishing was second hand but they were able to spend Anne's savings on an initial set of a bedding and a couple of fireside chairs. A delightful bonus ! Next they moved direct to Waterlooville to a brand new house in Hurstville Drive in 1967. (Geoff remembers his new American Boss put his footprints in the newly varnished lounge floor!)Then he went on to hold a firework in his bare hands ! Stupid man didn't seem to realise it would burn him!

Geoff and Anne didn't stay there very long as it was quite small and only really suitable for

a couple with no children ! So they soon went to a four bedroom house only just round the corner and moved all the furniture themselves in wheelbarrows! (and it rained off and on !)

Anne carried on working for a while, but eventually she left to become a full time housewife, her dream bonus and Geoff was able to cycle home for lunch ! Sadly, a few miscarriages later, Anne was diagnosed with toxæmia and advised not to have children of her own. They decided, despite counselling, that they would still like to have children and went ahead to adopt. They were put in touch with the Portsmouth Diocesan Council, for moral welfare and offered a child within about a year. The day came for collecting a new baby but she cried incessantly even after they reached Grandma's house ! However, they overcame that usually by 4am and some peace usually ensued for the mornings. Lunchtimes were another hurdle but usually could be solved by a bottle of milk!

Geoff's work seemed to involve a lot of travelling and he was soon away to the USA to meetings, to France, Germany, Italy and Greenock in Scotland. Anne was not keen on him going away but put a brave face on it. Geoff also worked quite long hours too ! Oh yes ! It was not all honey and jam in IBM. *Below: Anne's garden; see the next page.*



PARISH NEWS

Eventually, they mastered 'parenthood' and schools, Brownies, and Guides, learning to ride a bike, pass a driving test and early boyfriends ! Then it was airports, boy friends and moving on ! Anne became a Brownie Guider in Waterlooville and loved doing it ! She attended some of the Camps in Whitchurch, Hampshire, which were held on a regular annual basis. There were also the traditional camp fire get-togethers in Waterlooville.

The two girls were growing up fast and had all the usual young people's things to do in the evenings ! As well as homework of course, they both attended Purbrook Park Secondary School. Helen declined University saying she was going straight into the Foreign Office ! It did happen to be so, to their surprise ! Jane decided she was going for the bright lights in Southsea and it seemed to be the right decision for her.

They were proud of them both anyway. Helen carried on to a career in the F & CO and Jane got married and had two boys. Because of Helen's work, Anne and Geoff were able to see lots of places they would never have otherwise visited on their travels !

Having tried several churches in the area around Waterlooville, they visited St. Thomas Church and found a warm welcome and so stayed. For many years, they became involved in more ways than they could have imagined; Geoff was busy in the production of this magazine. He often carried out interviews with parishioners with interesting stories to tell. They both frequently attended the Film Afternoons at St Nicholas.

Anne loved her garden and also liked visiting National Trust Gardens - well in fact, any gardens really but then her maternal grandma married an Estate Gardener and her father was a very keen gardener once he left HCC at Winchester.



Anne leaves a husband, a daughter, two grown up grandsons and a host of friends and including one of her sisters who is still alive in a Winchester Care Home !

The photo on page 11 is of the garden which Anne created in their home near Fareham.

Photo left, taken at a Bedhampton church event in 2017. Anne and Geoff enjoying refreshments.

Thought: God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man.

C.S. Lewis

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



www.1stbedhampton.co.uk

As the evenings draw in and darkness comes early, all the sections have been out with their torches enjoying the darkness.

Scouts have been on night hikes and enjoyed a wide game (literally a game played over a wide area) at Staunton for a Balloon and glow stick manhunt. They also joined the county Scary Camp at Ferny croft in the New Forest. It looked great fun and they had some very impressive dinosaurs there (Akela wasn't at all jealous - cue very sulky face from Akela)..



Cubs have also been on a very wild and stormy night hike along Langstone shore to Warblington Church with some stinging horizontal rain along the way. Cubs have also showed their creative side making toffee apples and rice Krispie pumpkins and well as creating some crazy bouncing bugs.

Not to be outdone the Beavers have also had a night hike through the woods as well as a Lego night; unfortunately, their night of making chocolate apples had to be cancelled due to the lack of Leaders. Both the Cubs and Beavers are looking forward to visiting Alec Matthews' house on November 5th for bonfire night with Sparklers and toasted marshmallows. (Right: The magic of fireworks colours in the garden display. Thank you to the Matthews family.)



As always thank you to everyone who helps us it is very much appreciated, we are however quite short of leaders. We especially need help in our Scouts (10-14 years old) and Beaver Section (6-8 years old). Please speak to Judy or Nigel if interested. We can be flexible, so the offer does not have to be for every week and training is given. In addition, we are in need of a Quartermaster. This role involves some DIY and organising repairs and upkeep of our equipment.

More photos and videos on the 1stbedhampton Facebook page.

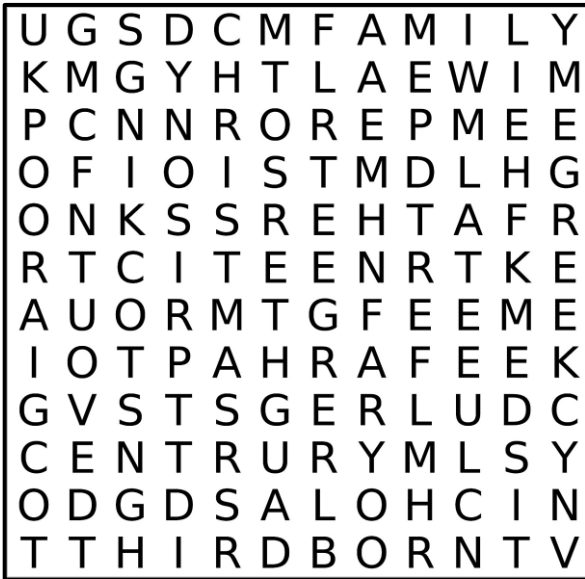
Judy Colwell

PUZZLE PAGE

Wordsearch – Christmas

Father Christmas is based on St Nicholas, who was born in the 3rd century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop, he suffered in prison with other bishops under the emperor Diocletian’s persecution of Christians.

One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery. The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.



- father
- Christmas
- Nicholas
- Born
- Third
- Century
- Greek
- Village
- Devout
- Wealthy
- Needy
- Sick
- Suffering
- Prison
- Emperor
- money
- Poor
- Family
- Three
- Daughters
- Stockings

NOVEMBER SOLUTION



Answers
next
month

BACK IN TIME in December

- 1750 years ago, on 25th December 274, Roman Emperor Aurelian founded the cult of Sol Invictus as an official religion. He erected a temple and declared 25th December a national holiday, to be known as the Feast of the Unconquered Sun. In 336, after the conversion of the Emperor Constantine, 25th December began to be celebrated by the church in Rome as the birthday of God's Son.
- 200 years ago on 21st December 1824, James Parkinson, British surgeon and politician, died. He was the first person to describe Parkinson's disease, in 1817.
- 125 years ago on 5th December 1899, Henry Tate, British sugar merchant and philanthropist, died. He established the Tate Gallery in London.
- 125 years ago on 16th December 1899, Noel Coward, British playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, was born. His plays include *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, & *Blithe Spirit*.
- 80 years ago, from 16th December 1944 to 16th January 1945, the Battle of the Bulge (Belgium) took place.
- 75 years ago on 13th December 1969, Jerusalem became capital of Israel, replacing Tel Aviv.
- 60 years ago from 31st December 1964, Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record, and became the only person to break both the land speed record and the water speed record in the same year.
- 50 years ago on 5th December 1974, the last episode of the TV comedy series *Monty Python's Flying Circus* was broadcast in the UK. It had begun in October 1969.
- 50 years ago on 24th December 1974, British politician John Stonehouse was arrested in Australia (on suspicion of being Lord Lucan.) He had faked his death on 20th November by leaving a pile of clothing on a beach in Miami Florida.
- 40 years ago on 19th December 1984, the Sino-British Joint Declaration was signed by Britain and China. Britain agreed to return Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on 1st July 1997.
- 40 years ago on 31st December 1984, the Bank of England stopped producing one pound notes. They remained legal tender until 1988.
- 30 years ago on 9th December 1994, Sinn Fein held its first formal talks with the British government. This eventually led to the IRA ceasefire, the Good Friday Agreement, and the establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly in 1998.
- 25 years ago on 31st December 1999, the London Eye – the world's tallest Ferris wheel at the time, was officially opened on the banks of the River Thames. It opened to passengers in March 2000.
- 20 years ago on 26th December 2004, the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (the Boxing Day Tsunami) took place. A massive undersea earthquake near Sumatra caused a devastating tsunami that swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and East Africa. One of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history, killing more than 230,000 people in 14 countries.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BEDHAMPTON VOLUNTEERS – established in 2003

Although numbers in our work party have steadily enlarged this year, as 'there is always something to do in a garden'; there is certainly something to do in 50 plus. The larger complexes enable the Thursday morning team to be fully occupied for a couple of hours (09.30-1200 with a coffee break), whilst the smaller ones are maintained on an ad hoc basis.

As with pottering in a garden tis easy to be distracted when perhaps iron discipline appears sadly eroded by that aging process one reads so much about. Restoring the widths of our pavements, although satisfying and valued, seems to have consumed a fair few hours this year, such excess turf all being recycled into our other areas.



This past year, the 21st of our existence, has been particularly busy, our busiest by far, prompted by whole gardens being donated as opposed to the usual odd clumps and half dozens of plants and shrubs. We're not complaining and the rewards should appear most in the Coop gardens and by Sparshatts Car Sales for that's where most have been absorbed. Those 30 hardy souls on our watering rota, manipulating the water bowser along the main Bedhampton Road, attending to our hanging baskets on the lamp posts, have been so consistent, especially throughout the hot dry periods - yes there were some- and most agree they were the best yet. The more waterers there are, the less times they have to water.



We used to have 50 people watering in the first year, which then meant watering a zone once a month. There are three zones, the baskets contain wells which means they only have to be watered twice a week - our 9 three tier planters dotted around are not watered by this rota. Do you know someone that could help next year please? No physical testing required for those under 90 years of age, as your confident assurances will be accepted by our insurers.

On behalf of our community, thank you so much to everyone who has continued to support us with plants, tools and monies.

Pete Spencer



AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

On Saturday 26th October the Mothers' Union held our annual coffee morning at St. Nicholas Church. We were joined by friends and family and MU members from other branches and the Deanery. As well as enjoying refreshments and a catch up, we sold cakes, cards and other small articles. There was a very well supported raffle and we raised in excess of £100 which will be donated to AFIA (Away From It All) which provides help for families who need a holiday and have been unable to enjoy a short break from everyday stresses. On average AFIA, which is funded primarily by MU members, helps 2500 people each year to get together and have fun and is often a healing process in family relationships where they can enjoy quality time together.

We are looking forward to our next meeting on 26th November at 2pm, at St Nicholas Church, where we will be joined by Revd. Angela Tilbury, the well known contributor to Radio 4's Thought for the Day.

Marie Payne
Branch Secretary

Christmas Events

- Sunday 1st December: Messy Christmas Christingle 10.30am at St Nicholas Church.
- Sunday 8th December: The Christmas Experience at St Thomas Church and continuing during the Christmas period.
- Tuesday 10th December: The MU Christmas meal.
- Sunday 15th December: 6pm Carols by Candlelight at St Thomas Church.
- Tuesday 24th December: (Christmas Eve) 3pm Crib Service at St Nicholas Church
11.00pm Midnight Holy Communion at St Thomas Church
- Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day) 10am All Age Christmas Celebration, at St Thomas Church



COMMUNITY EVENTS



MOTHERS' UNION DECEMBER

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

*Tuesday 10th Christmas Meal
Rowlands Castle*

All welcome

Contact: Marie Payne: 07929 776687

The
Arts
Society
Portsmouth



The History of Opera

Speaker: Jamie Hayes

Thursday 12th 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 at the Parish
Office 023 9248 3013
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



New advertisements
welcome

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Church Family

Alice Vosper



Dates for your diary

Sunday 1st December:

Advent Sunday

6th December: St Nicholas



Sunday 26th January, 2.30pm

Havant Chamber Orchestra groups:

St Thomas Church

Visit: havantorchestras.org/concerts

WEDDINGS



We wish every happiness for the future to those recently married

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the families of those who have recently died

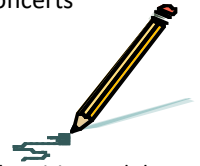
Frank Cooper

Maria Small



JANUARY 2025

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 **Tuesday 7th January**

Office@Bedhampton.church

Rector : Rev Max Cross 023 9248 3013

Email : Max@Bedhampton.church

*Day off: **Friday***

Curate: Rev Jo Lorimer 07588 713665

Email: Jo@Bedhampton.church

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 2024

SUNDAY 1st

St Thomas 9.00 am
St Nicholas 10.30 am

St Thomas 4.00 pm

SUNDAY 8th

St Thomas 9.00 am
St Nicholas 10.30 am

SUNDAY 15th

St Thomas 9.00 am
St Nicholas 9.15am
St Nicholas 10.30am
 St Thomas **6.00 pm**

SUNDAY 22nd

St Thomas 9.00 am
St Nicholas 10.30 am

TUESDAY 24th

St Nicholas 3.00 pm
 St Thomas **11.00pm**

WEDNESDAY 25th

St Thomas **10.00 am**

SUNDAY 29th

St Thomas **10.00 am**

Advent Sunday

Holy Communion
Messy Sunday
& Christingle
 Compline



Advent 2

Holy Communion
Morning Worship

Advent 3

Morning Praise
Bubble Church
Holy Communion
 Carols by Candlelight

Advent 4

Holy Communion
Morning Worship

Christmas Eve

Nativity Crib Service
 Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day

Family Christmas Celebration

Christmas 1

Holy Communion (Said service)

ON-LINE: at www.Bedhampton.church/tv and Facebook

MID-WEEK HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES

Wednesday 4th	St Thomas	9.30 am	Holy Communion (M.U.)
Wednesday 11th	St Thomas	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 18th	St Thomas	9.30 am	Holy Communion

Edited and produced by the Churches of Bedhampton Parish

www.Bedhampton.church

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Hospitals

Queen Alexandra, Portsmouth
02392 286000

St. Richard's, Chichester
01243 788122

Bedhampton Surgery
02392 474777

Havant Borough Council
02392 446019

Citizens Advice Bureau
0344 411 1306

National Rail Enquiries
0345 748 4950
www.nationarail.co.uk

SLIMMING WORLD

St Nicholas Church Hall
Belmont Grove
Fridays 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am
with Andi
07508 856506

Saturdays 7.45am, 9.15am
with Samantha
07805 060777

An article written by Samantha
will appear in the January edition
of this magazine; available
before Christmas.

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www.manortrust.org.uk

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