

BREMHILL, FOXHAM, THE TYTHERTONS AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

December 2017

The Newsletter



*Seasons
greetings*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 2nd Dec Super Chill and Prize Draw - Bremhill
- 2nd Dec Foxham Village Bingo
- 6th Dec Moravian Church Community Lunch
- 6th Dec Inauguration of Linda Carter
- 14th Dec Carol Singing - Bremhill
- 17th Dec Carol Service and drinks - Foxham
- 3rd Jan 2018 Moravian Church Community Lunch

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Front Cover - See article on page 19

EDITORIAL

Christmas. Bah! Humbug! Sounds like Scrooge? Well, I could perhaps be forgiven for thinking that maybe the commercial side has taken over. As soon as Hallowe'en is over, then the shops promote Christmas. I love the idea of giving and receiving presents, yet the excesses to which we are encouraged to go in most developed countries seem to me unjustified in the light of the poverty and suffering we see every day in the news! Can we justify Advent calendars which can cost hundreds of pounds with small bottles of wine or perfume behind the little windows? Or a bottle of champagne which I saw in Bath costing nearly £100? Our modern concept of Christmas really only dates from Victorian times and with the Christmas tree and, more recently, the Christmas market being imports from Germany, but the rampant commercialism is more of today.

And yet, and yet ... I love Christmas - the sounds, the decorations, yes, the food and drink and above all, the presents! The inner warmth that the season brings and the preparations for the Big Day. I look forward to being with our family over the Christmas period and I enjoy the excitement of the children. Of course, we shall no doubt make every effort to spoil our grandchildren. The season gives me great pleasure, but it's just that it also makes me feel a bit uncomfortable too at times.

The Newsletter Committee would also very much like to thank all those people who have so kindly made donations towards the cost of producing the Newsletter. We are very grateful for your contributions and we hope we can continue to produce an attractive and interesting publication for the Parish. If anyone would still like to donate, cheques can be made out to 'Bremhill Newsletter' or by bank transfer, sort code 30-91-90 and a/c number 48359368.

Despite my earlier reservations, I do wish everyone a very Merry and enjoyable Christmas with lots of goodies and hope you enjoy this issue of the Newsletter.

Ewen Bird

Please send your contributions by emailing them to editor@bremhill.com by the 13th of each month.

Printing by: Best at Print Ltd 01373 8000 sean@bestatprinting.co.uk

SPECIAL NOTICES

BONFIRE NIGHT

What a great night we had on the 5th November. The huge bonfire that was built over the preceding weeks by Colin, John and the team of volunteers was outstanding and the firework display just keeps getting better. As usual, the mulled wine and hot food proved extremely popular and helped people keep warm. A huge crowd attended and their generosity at the gate contributed to a very healthy donation towards the Village Hall funds of around £1000.

This event is one of the highlights in our calendar and we are SO grateful to the people who help out, to those who donate prizes, pallets, food and drink and, most of all, to the people who come along on a cold, dark night and make the evening so enjoyable and rewarding.

Bremhill Village Hall Committee

CAN YOU HELP?

I had a car accident and managed to write-off my car. At the age of nearly 92, I decided it was time to surrender my licence. This has left me with a problem transport to do little local jobs and keep some independence. I am trying to collate a list of people who would be willing to drive me. I don't anticipate having to call on people very often as Jophy (my wife) will do most of it. Please ring if you would be willing to help. 01249 816662

George Powell

FOXHAM HARVEST SUPPER

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the harvest supper on 27th Oct.

The evening proved to be a huge success with excellent food and friendship shared by all. The highlight of the night was 'Richard's Harvest Quiz' which proved to be both challenging and fun for everyone. With your support and generosity we managed to raise £1,350 for St John the Baptist Church. Thank you once again.

Michelle, Elsbeth & Fay

FOXHAM CAROL SERVICE

Following the Carol Service in St. John the Baptist Church in Foxham on Sunday, 17th December at 6.00 pm, the Parochial Church Council invites the congregation to the Reading Room for wine, beer or soft drinks together with light refreshments.

D. Glass

CHILDREN'S HALLOWE'EN TEA PARTY

On Saturday, 28th Oct, the Tytherton Village Hall was filled with glowing pumpkins, ghosts, hairy spiders, flying bats, cobwebs and balloons. The disco glitter ball provided that extra sparkle for the special party attended by 16 local children.

Children dressed in their favourite costumes played party games including musical statues, created some magnificently decorated munchkin pumpkins and masks and sat around the table to enjoy the high tea. Parents were treated to nibbles, scones and homemade cakes, coffee and tea.

We look forward to making this event an calendar highlight for the children!

Agnieszka Lewinska

BREMILL CAROLS

December 14th - 7:30 pm

Ho Ho Ho. Come and join us for the village carol singing, in Bremhill village hall between 7:30 and 8:30 then 9:00 onwards by kind invitation of Steve and Jo at the Dumb Post Inn.

All proceeds to Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Everyone is very welcome.



RURAL ARTS AT BREMHILL

A date for your new diary: Friday 16th February 2018

Spiltmilk Dance The Little Love Cabaret

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Tickets: £8 (adults) £5 (children) from Marilyn: 01249 661369, or

Rosie: 01249 813642

CHIPPENHAM & CALNE BRANCH RNLI

You will have noticed that the annual RNLI House to House collection did not take place this year, having been suspended by RNLI HQ as a result of Cold calling legislation (we are not sure if this is temporary or permanent). We very much appreciate your generosity in the past through the House to House collections and if anyone would like to continue supporting the RNLI, you can do so by joining our 100 Club for £12 per year and at the same time have the opportunity of winning one of the 50 prizes per year. Anyone interested please contact Lance on 720686.

INAUGURATION OF REVEREND LINDA CARTER

The Reverend Linda Carter is going to be the new Vicar of Bremhill, Foxham and Derry Hill. Her inauguration service will be at Derry Hill Church on Wednesday 6th December at 7 pm.

Everyone is welcome to come to the service and greet both Linda and her husband, Richard. There will be further opportunities to meet them which the PCCs will organise thereafter.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS

BINGO

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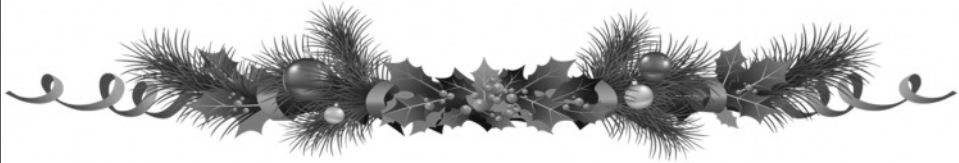
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CHRISTMAS PAST - PART 2

At home, when I was a child, the Christmas Puddings were made in the first week of November, leaving six weeks for them to mature. The fruit was washed and stalked, almonds blanched and skinned, suet and candied peel chopped, glacé cherries and rum measured. Raisins had to be stoned. These were the ingredients of the pudding. Each pudding had two silver threepenny bits added during the mixing of the ingredients. Everyone in the family stirred the mixture and made a wish. The Christmas cake was also made at this time, then stored, ready to be iced a few days before Christmas.

I went to St Andrew's Church Sunday School and there was always a Christmas party. The vicar's wife asked me what present I would like to have from the Christmas tree and I said a torch so I could read in bed with it! The entertainment was always Punch and Judy which I hated because I thought it "creepy". To go home with, we received a bag of sweets and an orange. My father's sister and the other residents of Downing Street used to hire a church hall and hold a Christmas party for their children and I was allowed to go. One year, Father Christmas caught his beard on fire from the candles on the tree so they had to throw a cup of water over him! Fortunately no harm was done.

On Christmas Eve, the Christmas tree was brought in and decorated with coloured glass baubles. Little candle holders with green or red candles were clipped onto the branches. These were lit on Christmas Day. Health and Safety!! Under the tree on Christmas morning, with the rest of the presents, would be a net stocking containing nuts, an orange, a handkerchief, a little bottle of Rose Water or Eau de Cologne, a bar of scented soap and a shilling.

When I was a child, if you didn't eat your main meal you would get no pudding. So at Christmas dinner I would entice Chum the dog to sit under the table and I would drop bits for him to make it look as if I had eaten all my meal, so I could have a pudding, hoping to get the threepenny bit. With dinner, there was a good supply of home-made wines. Dandelion and Parsnip was a favourite and I was always allowed a tiny drop. One year around Christmas, they gave some of the parsnip wine to a man who, upon leaving, couldn't ride his bike and had to walk back to Kington Langley !

After the Christmas Dinner crackers were pulled. These contained indoor fireworks. From inside some, little cockle shells fell out, and when these were placed in water they opened up and a paper fish attached to coloured paper fronds floated to the surface. My mother's aunt always came for Christmas dinner. I used to sit with my aunt and we would cut paper figures and patterns out of coloured paper.

On Boxing Day, mother's other aunt and uncle from Bath always came for tea. I was an only child and I envied my friends who had siblings. I was always with strict older people, seen but not heard, although I was well loved by all of them. It was a magical time for a child.



*A. Moonraker
Alias Margaret Smith*



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CHRISTMAS ARMCHAIR QUIZ

for Bremhill Parish

When? What? Where? Why?

1. Why did William Butterfield visit Foxham on several occasions?
2. What day of the week was William Butterfield born?
3. What is incorporated in the design of the wall opposite the well-house in Bremhill?
4. Why is a plastic bottle full of water in Bremhill's well-house
5. Why was a house in Tytherton bought by John Cennick in 1742?
6. Where is the parade walk in the parish?
7. How many eggs are there in Maud Heath's basket on her monument?
8. Where was the main home of Sir George Hungerford b. 1637-d. 1712?
9. Who wrote a poem about a sundial in the parish?
10. Where is the sundial?
11. Who founded Stanley Abbey?
12. What is the building date of the former Wesleyan Chapel in Spirthill?
13. What is the name of the former canal running through the parish?
14. When was the Dumb Post Friendly Society established?
15. What is Charles Dickens' association with the parish?
16. What was the next stop on the old railway line after Black dog halt going towards Chippenham?
17. Name 3 mills along the river Marden.
18. On what waterway was the Ratford duck race held in summer, 2017?
19. What is a Bremhill apple?
20. What is the type-face used in the Parish newsletter?
21. Name a trustee of Charlcutt reading room and library (UK Charity no. 203731).
22. Where in the parish is the disused tin chapel?
23. Where in the parish is the main home of the great crested newts?
24. How many locks were at Foxham Locks?
25. Who prints the parish newsletter?

Answers and prizes will be announced in the January 2018 newsletter
(Google may be of some help! Ed.)

CHRISTIAN MALFORD & FOXHAM WI

Our WI county AGM was well supported by our group who proudly received the Victor Ludorum shield again. Our guest speaker was Mandy Hickson, one of only five female tornado jet pilots. She was entertaining, educational and inspirational.



How can we thank all those who contributed to the firework night success? A wonderful weekend which could not have been achieved without your help. A special thanks to Tina and Marion who co-ordinated and 'managed' us all!

Group Carol Service on Monday 4th December 7.00 for 7.30 pm will be at Little Somerford church, with mince pies and coffee after much carol singing. Christmas Wreath Making on Tuesday 5th December 10.00 until 12.30 am to be held in the Christian Malford village hall with a £16 cost for the session plus all the materials.

Christmas Party on Thursday 14th December 7.30 pm in the Christian Malford Village Hall. Bring own drink, a plate of 'finger food' and a fiver! Your money will charitably support a local group at Christmas. This year we are funding 'Wiltshire Sight'. You may wish to bring along your Xmas cards on the evening / or you may wish to make a donation to a worthy cause and not send cards.

New members are always welcome. All information and club activities are found on the notice board outside the Christian Malford village shop. Contact Tina: 01249 720956.



Green Grass Broadband

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Green Grass Broadband Ltd. has been providing superfast broadband in Spirithill since March. Last month we installed more equipment and we are now beaming 30-45Mb/s speeds into Charlcutt and Foxham.

GGB is a BDUK accredited supplier so you could be eligible for a free installation, subject to terms. Online application takes five minutes and they normally reply within 5 days. Installation is usually within 5 days.

If you are fed up with slow landline broadband please do get in touch with Ayhan Dawood on 07802 748401 or Ayhan@greengrassbroadband.com

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

A Service at St. Martins 12th November 2017



Rev. Jim Scott took the service this year and spoke eloquently in memory of all the local people who died in WW1.

His central theme was the battles of Passchendaele and Ypres in which so many, on both sides, lost their life, which ended on November 7th 1917.

The service was video recorded as a part of the plan to record many village events for the history society, more details later

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TYTHERTON W.I.

"HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL"

For our December meeting on Wednesday the 13th, we are having a programme of 'Carols and Poems' in the Moravian Church. The meeting will be followed by seasonal refreshments in the village hall. Together with Rev Patsy Holdsworth, our WI cordially invites members of local WIs to join us for the evening.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except August, at 7.30 pm in Tytherton Village Hall. If you would like to come for a 'taster' evening you are very welcome - we are a very friendly bunch, with members from several of the local villages as well as Chippenham. Just come along or, for further information, ring our Secretary Rose on 07514 538551.

THE SKY AT NIGHT

December 2017

The astronomy calendar of celestial events for 2017 has been a delight for both avid star gazers and the 'occasional look to the sky' admirer. We have been treated to a vast array of phenomenon, from solar and lunar eclipses, meteor showers and the planets in our solar system putting on a dazzling light show. I am therefore delighted to report that in December 2017 we end on a high.

So first off, 'La Luna', will be in its full glory on the 3rd December. However, this will also be the only Super-moon for 2017. The moon will be at its closest approach to the earth and will look larger and brighter than usual. A new moon, which occurs when the moon is located on the same side of the earth as the sun (and so is not visible in the night sky), will occur on the 18th December.

The new moon is good news for the meteor spotters and in December we have 2 meteor showers. The first is on the 13th December and is called the Geminids shower. The Geminids is the king of meteor showers and is considered by many as the best shower of the heavens. It can produce up to 120 multi-coloured meteors per hour. The waning crescent moon will mean that the skies will be dark enough for a superb display - let's just hope the weather is on our side! The meteors will radiate from the constellation Gemini, which is in the Northern sky. Next we have the Ursids meteor shower. Not as spectacular as the Geminids, but equally as magical. These meteors are produced by dust grains left behind by comet Tuttle, which was first discovered in 1790. Best viewing will be just after midnight on the 23rd December and will radiate from the constellation Ursa Minor (the small bear) which can also be located in the Northern sky.

Finally, on the 21st December, we have the winter solstice. This is the first official day of winter, also known as the shortest day. On this day, the tilt of the Earth's axis is least aligned with the sun, providing us with the least daylight of the year.



So I hope you have enjoyed reading all about the night sky in 2017. All that remains is to wish one and all a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and a wonderful New Year.

Happy Star Gazing!

Angela Protheroe

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NATURE MATTERS

In the winter months it may appear that there is not much happening with wildlife - with the leafless trees/hedgerows and grey skies, it can seem as if everything is lying dormant just waiting for Spring to come again. However, the winter months are a good time to observe birds in and around our villages, as the lack of leaves actually makes it easier to spot them. Winter may not have as many species to see nor the impressive 'dawn chorus' but the presence of such a cacophony of noise can make distinguishing individual species difficult.

It's easy to forget about some of our more common birds, but when you are next out walking, stop and listen for a moment. You will probably hear the constant chattering and whistling of starlings, the rattling cry of a magpie, the cheery chirpings of sparrows, the explosive 'tchack' of the jackdaw as it sits on a chimney pot, or even possibly the 'to-whit-to-woooo' of a tawny owl far off in the woodland or the yaff-yaff-yaffing of a green woodpecker as it see-saws through the sky. It's also nice to be able to see some of our smaller species, many of which are usually well-hidden in vegetation, such as the blue tit, great tit, dunnock, wren, chaffinch and the goldfinch with its striking colouring of a bright red head and golden wings it truly lives up to its collective name of a 'charm' of goldfinches. In the fields are flocks of fieldfare and redwing, visiting us for the winter, whilst a kestrel silently hangs in the air searching the hedgerows and railway embankment for its next meal. Even our most common species, when seen close up, are quite stunning, like the starling with its speckled, iridescent plumage or the bold robin with its Christmassy red bib.

It is also a sad fact that a bird which is common now may not be so in the future. Recently published figures show that numbers of house sparrows have declined by about 70% since the late 1970s, with the bird seemingly suffering from people tidying up and paving over their gardens, and planting ornamental plants instead of native species. The RSPB and Natural England have both published information on 'gardening for wildlife', which can be downloaded from their websites (www.rspb.org.uk and www.naturalengland.org.uk). One good way of helping the birds, whilst also getting to see them up close, is by putting up a bird table/feeder in your garden.

*Stephen Dangerfield, Ecologist
(sfdangerfield@btinternet.com)*



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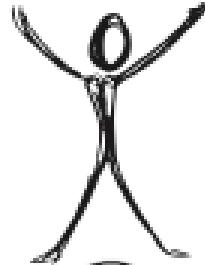
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BOOK REVIEW

Great British Village Show

Published by Dorling Kindersley with a foreword by Alan Titchmarsh



Stuck for a Christmas present? Then read on. Not a review of a whodunnit or a historical novel. For all of you budding produce show winners at Foxham and Bremhill, what better than a book written for you and revealing what goes on behind the scenes.

Celebrate this tradition and step behind the scenes of the British produce show with insider facts and beautiful photographs that show you every aspect of preparing, presenting, and prize-winning on the Big Day.

This is just such a book. 224 pages of information and winning tips, expert guides, photo diaries and prize winning recipes. It states on the back cover that you will discover how judges reach their nail-biting decisions by using official RHS guidelines for over 100 fruit, vegetable, and flower categories, and learn how to prepare show-quality preserves and bakes with tips from the experts. RHS Great British Village Show tells you exactly what the judges are looking for - and what to avoid.

The book is written by Thane Prince and Matthew Biggs. Buy it for Christmas and enter the world of tents in Foxham, village halls in Bremhill, tea, and terrifically good jam with RHS Great British Village Show.

David Wood



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FOXHAM HORSE SHOW

This year's Foxham horse show was once again a great success, despite torrential rain in the week before the show. We were extremely lucky on the day with just a very light shower in the morning. We would like to thank every one who volunteered and helped at the show and everyone who visited. A particular thanks also to our very generous show sponsors and, of course, all our competitors. With more than 400 entries in the horse show, all classes were really well supported.

This year our youngest competitor was only two-and-a-half riding her twenty-seven year-old pony in the Fancy dress class. The dog show was also extremely popular and the dog agility saw people queuing most of the afternoon to have their go. The Produce, Craft, Cookery and Photography show grew considerably this year, with all classes very well supported.



We were delighted that Chippenham Fire and Rescue were able to join us for a couple of hours with a fire engine, which proved extremely popular with lots of children sitting in the cab and trying on a 'real' Fireman's helmet. The Trade stand area had more than 25 stands which provided lots of interesting things to see and buy and some fabulous prizes were won in our raffle. Next year's show is planned for Saturday 15th September.

I am delighted to report that the show raised just over £6000 which has been distributed to our chosen Charities which include; St John the Baptist Church Foxham, The Foxham Reading Room, Wiltshire Air ambulance, Riding for the Disabled, Hounds for Heroes, Dorothy House, Julia's House, RABI and the Bremhill Parish Newsletter.

Michelle Hanson
Show organiser



TYTHERTON VILLAGE HALL

The Harvest Supper was greatly enjoyed by us all. Many thanks to Maryanne for organising it and to those from the village and the Moravian Church who cooked and contributed towards it. Proceeds were given to Hall Funds and the Moravian Church.

Many thanks to all who came to our 'Bonfire' Breakfast' on Nov 5th. About £240 was raised for Hall funds

"WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS"

Village Carol Celebration - Tuesday 19th December
6.30 pm in the Moravian Church.



It wouldn't be Christmas without our hugely entertaining feast of carols - traditional favourites sprinkled with added children, choir, Christingles, and the only 12-days-of-Christmas that can double as your weekly exercise class. Sing well and you'll be out in an hour for mulled wine and mince pies in the village hall.

Saturday 27th January 2018: The January Supper. A sell out last year, so book early - tickets on sale in the New Year, contact details below,
Tickets: Adults £12, Children up to 16 £6, Family: 2 adults + 2 children £25

The Bar is open each Friday evening from 8 pm except 22nd & 29th December

All are very welcome

For bookings and event enquiries call **07719 176753** or email
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Look on our Hall Facebook page for news and photos of recent events

Tytherton Village hall is a registered charity, no. 1154150



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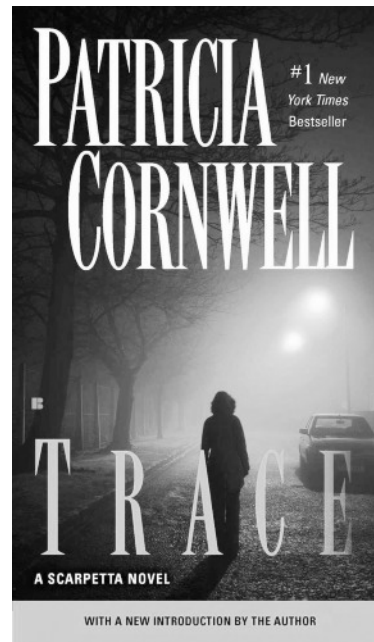
BOOK REVIEW

"Trace" - Patricia Cornwell

Patricia Cornwell is probably well known to most readers. Her central character is always Dr Kay Scarpetta, a Chief Medical Examiner (Forensic Pathologist in the UK). This is a 2004 book, the 13th in the series. Some of us have a fascination of the work of Forensic Pathologists like Dr Nikki Alexander in "Silent Witness", the BBC series. I recall lectures at Medical School given by a Forensic Pathologist; the lecture theatre was always crammed full!

"Trace" is set five years after Dr Scarpetta has been sacked as Medical Examiner at Richmond, Virginia but finds herself asked back to investigate the mysterious death of a teenage girl. Gilly Paulsson's death has stumped the best in the business. There is no obvious cause; nothing suspicious except that she should not be dead. Scarpetta uncovers trace evidence that Gilly Paulsson was murdered. But why?

Dr Scarpetta's niece doesn't want her aunt to get involved but she also has troubles of her own. Someone close to her has been attacked in her home and traces left deliberately. For Dr Scarpetta, what began as a forensic puzzle has become more alarming. Vital pieces are missing. Who is tightening a web around her and her loved ones? It has revenge written all over it.



This is a typical Cornwell novel that speeds along with technical forensic information and gory details. Not for the faint hearted. An enjoyable read nevertheless, with the inevitable conclusion that Dr Scapetta wins the day but not without scars.

David Stevens



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TOPICS AND DATES

January 17 2018 - All You Need is Love -
Understanding Relationships

February 6 2018 - Emotional Maturity at Work

March 7 2018 - Dealing with Depression



Each individual meeting: £8. Book these 5 for £30.

Contact Alex on 01249 409001 or alex@visionworksforlife.com
There will be cake!!
The South Barn, Naish House, Spirhill SN11 9HW

*East Tytherton Moravian Church
Invites you to a Community Lunch*

*To be held every first Wednesday of the month.
The next lunch will be served on:*

**Wednesday 6th December at 12.30 pm at East Tytherton Moravian
Church Hall**

*Menu: Home made soup with crusty bread,
Home made cake, tea and coffee*

For further information and reservation,
please call Agnieszka on 07941 383 618, a.lewinska@yahoo.co.uk

In Memory of

WALTER JOHN COOK BRITTAIN
16th Battalion King's Royal rifle corps

Born 15th September 1897 - Died 2nd December 1917 Aged 20 years old
Walter was born in Foxham in September 1897 and christened at St John the Baptist Foxham on 23rd December 1897 by Rev. A Taylor. It was a duel baptism with a neighbour's son, Arthur Herbert Matthews. Arthur also served in the colours as did Walter's brother William George. Both survived and their names are on the plaques in the local churches.

Walter's parents were William Brittain (1865-1941) and Emma Julia nee Matthews (1872-1949). As well as a brother William George, Walter had two sisters Florence and Elsa. In 1911 George was an apprentice at Foxham blacksmiths and Walter was working on a farm, possibly Cadenham Farm as the family were living in a cottage on the farm in 1911. When he was old enough to serve Walter joined the 16th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps. After training he was sent to the front where a book written by a local historian stated that Walter was injured in the leg and foot on the Somme. He was treated in 3rd Western general hospital at Cardiff in 1916 before recovering and re-joining his regiment. So far I have not been able to corroborate this.

In autumn 1917 Walter was at the front near the battlefields of Passchendaele and Langemarck. The orders came through that there would be a night attack by two divisions, in full moonlight, to grab and hold a slightly better stretch of land. This was the night of 1st and 2nd December 1917.

At this stage of the war tactics were changing on both sides, fixed lines of trenches and waves of troops going over the top were being replaced by an elastic defence with platoons working well forward of their trench line to take up clearly marked advance positions with the significant use of aircraft to supplement the heavy guns. But not on this attack.



*Walter Brittain's grave
Passchendaele, Belgium*






It was old-fashioned over the top, casualties were high and Walter was killed in action. After the Armistice, graves were brought in from the battlefields. Almost all of the burials are from the autumn of 1917.

The Passchendale new British cemetery now contains 2,101 burials and commemorations of the First World War. Walter is amongst these graves and near to Walter is the grave of a famous Canadian athlete of the 1912 Olympics Alex Decoleau, who was a sergeant in the Canadian forces. The cemetery was designed by Charles Holden. Walter was awarded the Victory and British War medal after his death and mum Emma received his gratuities of £6-18s-7d & £8-10s-0d in 1918/19.



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GARDENING NOTES - DECEMBER

Clear up as much fallen, soggy foliage as possible from the borders and compost it. Plant hellebores in good holes filled with compost and manure to get them ready to flower in the spring. Cut off any leaves which are falling over and any which have blotched leaves (affected by blight).

Take hardwood rose cuttings – dig a trench as deep as a spade's blade, fill with grit and sand. Cut straight stems up to 20 cm long with a bud at both ends. Cut straight across at the base and at an angle at the top. Plant 2/3rds of the stem in the gritty trench. Firm in and leave till next autumn. Wait and see! If sweet peas are growing in pots, pinch out the tops to encourage side shoots to form.

Prune fruit trees and cut autumn raspberry canes down to the ground. They fruit on new canes each year. Dig, divide and replant rhubarb. Add plenty of manure and compost to the soil before planting.

Then put your feet up and enjoy the Christmas festivities!

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LETTER FROM OUR NEW TEAM VICAR

Hello, my name is Linda Carter and I am the new Team Vicar in the Marden Vale Team Ministry. At the time of writing, I and my husband Richard have spent the last few days unpacking boxes as we completed our move to The Vicarage in Derry Hill. I hope that by the time you read this there will be some semblance of calm and order in the Carter household...

I am really looking forward to seeing you over the Christmas period and finding my way around the various communities which make up the Marden Vale Team. In the meantime I thought I would introduce myself. I am married to Richard and we have two children. Our son Jonathan lives with his wife Lily in Skipton and our daughter Helen lives in Bristol with her partner Joe.

I began my working life in the 1980s as an insurance underwriter, in London and Manchester. During the nineties, I stayed at home to bring up our children and also became involved with voluntary work at church. The first inkling that God may be calling me to some kind of ministry also began to emerge around this time. When the children were in secondary education, I worked as a teaching assistant at the local primary school, before taking on the role of Team Administrator in a rural team ministry in the Salisbury diocese. However, it soon became clear that God was calling me to ordained ministry and I began my training at STETS (The Southern Theological and Education Training Scheme), which is based at Sarum College in Salisbury. I was ordained at Salisbury Cathedral in 2014 and for the last three and a half years I have been a curate at St. John's Church in Broadstone near Poole.

So that's a little bit about me. As we journey through Advent, a time of reflection leading us towards the celebration of the birth of Christ, I look forward to getting to know you and exploring with you what God has in store for us.

Wishing you peace and joy in this season of Advent and Christmas.

Linda



SMALL THOUGHTS OF A LARGE CLERGYMAN

"And is it true? And is it true, This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained glass window's hue, A baby in an ox's stall ?"

Familiar lines from a poem of the late John Betjeman - "Christmas" And is it true? This story of angels and archangels, of a peasant girl from Palestine, of a virgin birth in a stable in Bethlehem, of ox and ass, shepherds and sheep, of wise men and a wicked King. This story of a guiding star - of a baby in an ox's stall? Is it true ? Is this how it was that first Christmas ? Is this how God came into our world - in the form of the baby Jesus?

Well, if it isn't true, then a whole industry that has grown up around the Christmas story is in serious trouble! And in the church itself, the wonderful carols and hymns, the glorious choral works, the crowded Christmas churches - will cease to have any relevance. No doubt the pagan festival would continue in some form or other and Santa Claus would keep his job, but how empty, how dull, that time at the end of December would seem to Christians!

Even as I write these words I am beginning to experience that familiar excitement, that "frisson" which comes with the lighting of the first Advent candle, the uncovering of the first day on the Advent Calendar....As Christians we believe that Christ came into the world for our sakes; we believe that by His resurrection our own resurrection was assured - so perhaps the important thing is the fact of His birth, not the stories surrounding it....but to me, and to millions of others, the Nativity story rings true with a logic of its own. God, who created us, wanted to be right at the heart of his creation and so He had to become man in the form of Jesus Christ - and Mary was the mother of Jesus.

In itself that would be a wonderful, miraculous story, perhaps not needing all the other characters and events that make up the story recorded in the Gospels - but I have no doubts at all that Christ was born of Mary in that little town of Bethlehem! "And is it true? That most tremendous tale of all?" This year let the hymns and carols of Christmas ring out louder than ever, demonstrating to our troubled world our belief that "YES ! THANK GOD IT IS TRUE !"

God bless you and all whom you love this Christmas.

Jim Scott

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH. FOXHAM

3 rd Dec Advent Sunday	9.30 am Holy Communion	D. Scott 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
10 th Dec Advent 2	9.30 am Family Service	D. Wilton Mark 1: 1-8
17 th Dec Advent 3	6 pm Carol and Crib Service	Readers
24 th Dec Advent 4	No Service	
25 th Dec Christmas Day	9.30 am Family Communion	Churchwardens Titus 2: 11-14
31 st Dec	No Service	

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and New Year

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, TYTHERTON LUCAS

3 rd Dec	Patronal Festival	10 am	Margaret Gubbins
10 th Dec	Eucharist	8.30 am	Peter Tremelling
17 th Dec	Carol Service	6.30 pm	Derek Copeland
24 th Dec	No Service		
25 th Dec	Eucharist	10 am	Peter Tremelling
7 th Jan	Morning Service	10 am	Derek Copeland

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, BREMHILL

	Service	Sidesmen	Readers
3 Dec Advent Purple	8 Holy Communion 6 Candlelit Advent Evensong	William W-S Tamsin Castle Mervyn Wells Beryl Wells	1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark Kite Readings to be notified Mike Kitching Prisca Wyldbore- Smith
10 Dec Advent 2 Purple	11 Holy Communion	David Stevens Mark Kite	2 Peter 3: 8-14 Louise English
17 Dec Advent 3 Purple	6 Evensong Carol Service	Gwen Woods Arnold Woods	Readers to be notified
24 Dec Christmas Eve White	11.15 pm Midnight Mass	Anne Jones Len Jones	Isaiah 52: 7-10 Amy Rodwell
Mon 25 Dec Christmas Day White	9.30 am Family Communion	Judy Scott Tamsin Castle	Titus 3: 4-7 William Wyldbore-Smith
31 Dec Circumcision White	11 United Benefice Holy Communion St Mary's Calne		
7 Jan Epiphany White	8 Holy Communion 6 Evensong	Jane Jordan Nicol Jordan June Hughes William Bailey	Ephesians 3: 1-12 Philippa Stevens Isaiah 60: 1-6 Beryl Wells Matthew 2: 1-12 Marilyn Adcock

For any information (Weddings, Funerals, Christenings and Special services), please contact:

Church House: 30, Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU. Open 10.30-12.30
Tuesday to Saturday. 816522 - office@parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk
Team Rector: Rev Bob Kenway:812340
frbob@parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk

ST MARTIN'S NOTICES

The most wonderful news is that the Reverend Linda Carter will be our new Vicar. All those who met her were deeply impressed by her friendliness and keenness to work with us to build a strong and thriving church in Bremhill.

Her Inauguration Service will be on Wednesday 6th Dec at 7 pm at Derry Hill Church. We will be organising events before Christmas so as many people as possible will be able to meet her. We look forward to welcoming her and her husband, Richard.

Afternoon tea china for hire. Very reasonable rates. Contact Philippa on 815337.

If you have any items of local Church news for the next edition of the Newsletter, please send to editor@bremhill.com by 13th of each month. Thank you.

MORAVIAN CHURCH, EAST TYTHERTON

Morning worship is every Sunday at 10.30 am with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month. All welcome

CATHOLIC SERVICES

St Mary's, Chippenham
Saturdays 6 pm
Sundays 9.30 am and 6.30 pm
Station Hill, Chippenham
Canon Desmond Millett

www.stmaryschippenham.co.uk

St Edmund's, Calne
Saturdays 6 pm
Sundays 10 am
Oxford Road,
Father Vincent Curtis
01249 813131
www.saintedmundsparish.org.uk

	Foxham	Bremhill
Church Wardens	Elizabeth Hannah 740619 Mary Kellond 740633	William Wyldbore- Smith 814969 David Stevens 815337
Treasurer	Robert Pegler 740253	David Stevens 815337
Secretary	Jenny Wilton	Paula Godwin

We owe much of our idealised view of Christmas to Charles Dickens' descriptions in 'A Christmas Carol'.

Here are two extracts that give a warm picture of the season.

...The poulterers shops were still half-open, and the fruiterers were radiant in their glory. There were great, round pot-bellied baskets of chesnuts, shaped like the waistcoats of jolly old gentlemen, lolling at the doors, and tumbling out into the street in their apoplectic opulence. There were ruddy, brown- faced, broad-girthed Spanish Onions, shining in the fatness of their growth like Spanish Friars, and winking from their shelves in wanton slyness at the girls as they went by, and glanced demurely at the hung-up mistletoe. There were pears and apples, clustered high in blooming pyramids; there were bunches of grapes, made in the shop- keepers' benevolence to dangle from conspicuous hooks, that people's mouths might water gratis as they passed; there were piles of filberts, mossy and brown, recalling in their fragrance, ancient walks among the woods, and pleasant shufflings ankle deep through withered leaves; there were Norfolk Biffins, squab and swarthy, setting off the yellow of the oranges and lemons...

The grocers' shops are redolent with the rich scents of tea and coffee, almonds, cinnamon, figs and candied fruits.

"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew. "Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round-apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that-as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

*Charles Dickens
A Christmas Carol*



CONGRATULATIONS

to James Lamacraft

This photograph was entered in the Chippenham Youth Area Board Photography Competition and it won 1st prize.

James took the image at Castle Combe last winter.

For those who are a little more technically minded the details are:

- Camera maker Panasonic
- Camera model DMC-TZ70
- F-stop F/33
- Exposure time 1/60 sec
- ISO speed ISO-125





*The Newsletter team would like to pass on their very
best wishes for this season*

*May the harmony and friendship within our Parish
grow and our communities continue to strengthen.*