



Holy Trinity
COOKHAM

The Cookhams Parish Magazine

Enabling all in our community to encounter God
through warm hospitality and inspired worship

incorporating The Methodist Newsletter



St John the Baptist
COOKHAM DEAN



Shoe Boxes and Knitwear
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Advent & Christmas 2024 Our Services at a Glance

Sunday 8th December

6.30pm - **Advent Carols**

Holy Trinity's traditional Advent Carols, this year taking place in St John the Baptist church

Sunday 22nd December

6.00pm - **Nine Lessons & Carols**

St John the Baptist's traditional service in St John the Baptist church

Christmas Eve 24th December

4.00pm - **Crib Service** in St John the Baptist church

4.00pm - **Crib Service OUTDOOR** at Holy Trinity church

11.00pm - **Midnight Mass** at St John the Baptist church

Christmas Day 25th December

9.15am - **Festival Eucharist** at St John the Baptist

11.00am - **Festival Eucharist** at Holy Trinity School

6.30pm - **Christmas Carols**

Holy Trinity's traditional Christmas Day Carols, this year taking place in St John the Baptist church



Crib Services at both churches
Christmas Eve Families@4



YOUR COOKHAM, YOUR PLAN

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YouTube

[Our Worship and Prayer Channel](#)



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www.holytrinitycookham.org.uk

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*warm
hospitality*

December 2024 / January 2025

*inspired
worship*

This magazine is published jointly by the Parochial Church Councils
of Holy Trinity, Cookham and St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean. See page 1

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Fr Stephen writes: Advent Anticipation: The Countdown to Christmas

As the 1st of December arrives, we begin the season of Advent, a time filled with anticipation, excitement, and preparation for Christmas Day. For many, December 1st is a date marked by opening the first door of an Advent calendar, whether it's filled with chocolate, tiny toys, or beautifully illustrated images. The simple act of counting down, day by day, is a tradition that fills hearts with joy and sets the tone for the festive season.

For the Church, Advent has a deeper, spiritual resonance. It's not just a countdown to Christmas; it's a period of reflection, hope, and preparation for the arrival of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. In our churches, we light a candle each Sunday during Advent. Each flame represents something special: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, all culminating in the Christ Candle, which is lit on Christmas Day. It's a beautiful way to focus our hearts and minds on the greatest gift we've ever received: the birth of Christ.

But Advent isn't just for those who gather in church. It's a season that touches everyone in one way or another. Perhaps it's the festive lights twinkling on high streets, the scent of mulled wine at Christmas markets, or the thrill of seeing the first flakes of snow (we can always hope!) dusting the ground. As a child, the excitement of Christmas seemed almost magical, those frosty mornings when you'd wake up and hope to see snow falling, imagining that the world might just transform into a winter wonderland overnight. It's the small, simple things that build up to the grand celebration of Christmas Day.

When I think back to my own childhood, Advent and Christmas brought not only the joy of chocolate calendars but also the thrill of Nativity Plays. Oh, the memories! I must have appeared in several nativities as a young and older person. Like many of you, I played the usual roles, shepherds, wise men, even Joseph himself once. Yet, there was one year that still stands out, and I'm sure you'll wonder how on earth this happened, I was cast as a dancing pineapple! Yes, you read that correctly, a pineapple. I can't quite remember the reasoning behind it. Perhaps the school was feeling particularly creative that year or perhaps they were low on traditional roles. Either way, there I was, dancing away in my pineapple costume, feeling ever so proud. And you know what? It went down a storm!

Reflecting on those times, it's wonderful to see that Nativity Plays are still going strong in our schools today. There's something truly heartwarming about seeing children donning tea towels and angel wings, narrating the story of Christ's birth with all the enthusiasm and

innocence that only a child can bring. It's a reminder that, even in an ever-changing world, some traditions endure, weaving together generations through a shared story, the greatest story ever told.

Of course, for those of us in the church, the Nativity isn't just a charming tradition; it's the heart of Christmas. It's the story of a baby born in the humblest of places, a stable in Bethlehem, to Mary, a young virgin, and Joseph, her husband. This baby, Jesus, would become the Light of the World, showing us the way through his teachings, his love, and his sacrifice. Christmas Day isn't merely about festivities and presents; it's a celebration of this incredible gift, God coming to dwell among us, offering us hope and salvation.

During this Advent season, as we gather each week and prepare for the joy of Christmas, I invite you to take a moment to pause and reflect. Whether you're someone who attends church or simply enjoys the festive atmosphere, Advent encourages us all to find a quiet moment amid the busy season. It's an opportunity to remember the true essence of Christmas—light dispelling darkness, hope conquering despair, and love coming into the world.

So, as we set our Advent wreaths aglow, catch a glimpse of a nativity play (whether a traditional one or perhaps one with a surprise twist like a dancing pineapple!), and enjoy the festive sights and sounds, let's carry the spirit of joy and hope within us. Whether it's in the twinkle of Christmas lights, the comfort of sharing meals with loved ones, or the stillness of a candlelit service, may this Advent fill our hearts with peace and wonder.

And when Christmas Day finally dawns, may we all celebrate with full hearts, knowing that the greatest gift of all is the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Advent and Christmas season!

Fr Stephen

We're here for You!

If you are old or young, new to the village or lived here for some time, and have a question about our activities, or if you need help or comfort, please contact one of us:

For Cookham Dean: Stella Fairlie 532926

For Cookham and Cookham Rise: Val Eckett 524561

or any of the Ministry Team - see page 2

THE COOKHAMS PARISH MAGAZINE



**HOLY
TRINITY
CHURCH**

This magazine is published jointly by the Parochial Church Councils of Holy Trinity, Cookham and St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean

Items for consideration of inclusion should be sent to the Editor by 15th of the previous month. The inclusion of an article does not necessarily indicate the churches' support for any particular point of view expressed.

Adverts are published in good faith and we are unable to warrant or endorse any of the products or services offered.

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If you care about Cookham as much as we do, please join us as a full member to make us stronger and more effective. Membership costs from just £5.00 a year by standing order and it's easy to join online at www.cookhamsociety.org.uk or call our secretary Lysette Penston Tel: 01628 308906



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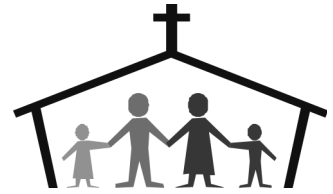
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Children, Young People and Church

Everyone, regardless of age, is welcome at all our services.

Here are the special facilities for younger people.



Holy Trinity, Cookham

Boys' Choir and Girls' Choir

The Girls' & Boys' Choir sings for one or two services a month. This is a lively and committed group of young people and we are always pleased to hear from potential new choristers.

Practice: Tuesdays, 6.30-7.05pm

Director of Music - Sara Wood: 01628 522593

Sunday Club and Trinity Nippers

Some of you will have noticed that our children's activities at Holy Trinity have fallen away and this will be disheartening for many people. Such activities have served as a vital communal space within our parish life, especially for our young families.

As we proceed with the essential renovations to our church, I want to reaffirm that the well-being of our children is a primary focus in our planning and spiritual growth.

So, whilst disappointing, this is but a temporary pause which presents us with a chance to reassess and expand our services for young families and children. With a sense of anticipation and hope, I urge you all to see this time as an opportunity for new beginnings within our church and broader community.

Our Choirs, and our Sunday afternoon benefice initiative, Families@4, held at St John the Baptist, continue in the meantime. Your patience, support, and prayers during this transitional phase are crucial, and of course, I value any thoughts or suggestions you might have concerning the future of our children's ministry.

Fr Stephen

Worship, Prayer and Study Online

Our **Cookham Worship and Prayer Channel** is easily accessible via links on the church websites and our Facebook pages.

On Monday and Friday a **recorded reading, reflection and prayers** are available from first thing in the morning through the link on our websites and Facebook page.

We continue to livestream/record **the main Sunday Service** from **St John the Baptist** once a month - see our Diary of Services for exactly when.

In addition, occasional services are recorded at Holy Trinity Church and the choir record special musical offerings, usually once a month.



[Our Worship and Prayer Channel](#)

St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean

Choir

Our numbers may be small but we still make a good sound to support our congregational singing and worship. We do need more singers of all ages, including Juniors, so if you'd like to join us, we'd love to have you!

Choir practices are on Fridays: Juniors 5.30 - 6.30, (safe guarding rules are followed) Adults 6.30 - 7.15.

The principal service on Sundays is the 9.15 family communion which lasts for about an hour. Afterwards there is coffee and biscuits in the vestry.

Please contact David Colthup on email: choirmaster@cookhamdeanchurch.org.uk or speak to him after the service on Sundays.

Families@4

Our Families@4 services are held on festival and special occasions through the year.

It's been a joy to see so many young families from across the Benefice in church, doing Bible readings, leading traditional prayers and interacting with reflective prayer activities. We often have over 60 people in church.

We have a faithful group of regular helpers, who coordinate sandwich making, baking, providing drinks, washing up, cleaning tables, hoovering up after the service. If you'd like to get involved as and when you're available please do chat to us and come and be a part of your church team.

As you read this magazine we will just have had our service for Christingle on 1 December to mark the beginning of Advent and the preparations for Christmas.

Our next celebration will be two services!

Christmas Eve Crib Services at 4pm

at each of our churches

(The service at Holy Trinity will be outside the church)



The following Families@4 service will be at St John the Baptist Cookham Dean on Sunday 30th March at 4pm
Mothering Sunday

Church News and Events

Music from Holy Trinity Choirs

Sunday 1st December

11am: Christingle – Alter Chorum

Sunday 8th December

11am: Parish Eucharist – Choristers' Mums' Choir

6.30pm: ADVENT CAROL SERVICE (at St. John the Baptist, Cookham Dean)

Music led by the Youth & Men's Choirs (at St. John the Baptist, Cookham Dean)

Sunday 15th December

11am: Parish Eucharist – Men's Choir

Sunday 22nd December

11am: Parish Eucharist – Youth Choir & Choristers' Mums' Choir

CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm: Outdoor Crib Service with Carol Singing (in Holy Trinity Churchyard)

CHRISTMAS DAY

11am: Parish Eucharist – Alter Chorum

6.30pm: CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE (at St. John the Baptist, Cookham Dean)

A special way to start your evening festivities, with music led by the Youth & Men's Choirs.

Our grateful thanks to all at St. John the Baptist for allowing the continuation of our festive Cookham tradition during the church closure.

Sunday 12th January

11am: Parish Eucharist – Choristers' Mums' Choir

6.30pm: EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE (at St. John the Baptist, Cookham Dean)

Light in the long month of January. Music led by the Men's Choir.

Sunday 19th January

11am: Parish Eucharist – Youth Choir

Sunday 26th January

11am: Parish Eucharist – Men's Choir

Sunday 2nd February

11am: Parish Eucharist – Choristers' Mums' Choir

6.30pm: CHORAL EVENSONG FOR CANDLEMAS (at St. John the Baptist, Cookham Dean)



Keep watch throughout Advent and Christmas for an array of offerings on 'The Choirs of Holy Trinity Church, Cookham' YouTube channel (search 'Cookham Choirs') – with our thanks to the staff at St. Joseph's Church for allowing recording to take place in St. Elizabeth's Church, Cookham Rise. Other recordings were

made specially in Holy Trinity Church before its closure (Advent in July was a special experience!)

Parish Giving Scheme



We are very grateful for all giving to the church, without your support there would be no church. Thank you!



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If you regularly put cash in the plate or using the card reader, have you considered the Parish Giving Scheme as an alternative method of giving? It's very easy to sign up to a regular amount that would suit you. There's an option for an annual increase to be

linked to inflation, but you can always have the option to change the amount at any time.

Bonus for you—you can forget needing to bring cash or a card to church.

Bonus for the church—less admin and counting, and, if you're a tax payer, Gift Aid will be claimed by the central organisers and passed to the church a few days after your payment.

If you are interested in giving in this way, please speak to either of our treasurers, Ros Hazeldine or Tim Sharples, or visit

www.parishgiving.org.uk



Holy Trinity Works Update

Work has now started on the re-ordering project at Holy Trinity Church on Monday 11 November and it is due to be completed in the spring, in time for Easter back in the church.

Just to remind you, the project entails lifting and removing the pews, installing underfloor heating in the nave, and supplementary radiators there and in the east end, laying a new cream coloured stone floor in the nave, and fitting an accessible toilet in the tower.

We have already ordered new chairs for the church, to the same design as those in the Parish Centre, but with beech wood veneer finish.

The cost of the project is in the order of £700,000 and although we have raised a considerable amount of money, we still need to raise over £100,000. While the work is underway, we have effectively handed over the church to the contractors, which means that there is strictly no access to the building.



In the meantime, Sunday morning services continue in Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, and occasional evening services at St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean.

We hope to be able to share some photographs of progress in the February magazine.

Bernadette Clark and Mark Stockdale
Churchwardens



Trinity Talk Monday, 20 January A Walk on the Wild Side

Photographer David Fettes captures the beauty of the natural world, whether it be landscapes, wildlife or its varied habitats. During his talk he will share his images and memories of wilderness, stunning light and animal behaviours. He will explain how we are impacting wildlife and habitats – and how, with thought and positive action,



we can reverse some of the negative and often unintended consequences of our actions. His images illustrate how he sees our beautiful planet.

The talks are held at Bel and The Dragon in Cookham High Street on the third Monday of the month and celebrate the talents of people living in Cookham and its environs. They are fund-raising events for Holy Trinity Church.

Everyone is welcome, but capacity is limited, so it is advisable to check in advance. When reserving your place at £20 each by phone on 01628 527465 or email stephaniediggon@hotmail.com, please let me know of any food allergies. Pay cash on arrival from 6.30pm (for Prosecco and canapés). Talks start at 7pm and finish around 8pm.

When reserving your place at £20 each by email stephaniediggon@hotmail.com (preferably), or phone on 01628 527465, please advise of any food allergies.

Stephanie Diggon



Men's Breakfast Our next breakfast will be on Saturday 14th December

We are still finalising arrangements for a guest speaker, but as usual we meet at the Holy Trinity Church Parish Centre and we serve breakfast at 8:30am followed by the talk at 9:00am. Our maximum capacity is 40 so places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you have booked a place and find that you are no longer able to join us, please let me know for catering purposes.

To book, please email nmarkstockdale@hotmail.com

We look forward to seeing you.

Mark Stockdale



Parish Registers

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Christmas Fellowship Lunch Cookham Churches Together

8th December at 1pm at Cookham Dean Church
Please phone Lorna Sykes 486874 by the Wednesday before to book your place.

Our dates for the next 3 months are:-

12th January at Cookham Rise Methodists

9th February at Holy Trinity, Cookham

9th March at Cookham Dean Church

We make a modest charge of £10 per head which includes drinks (even for Christmas!)

Remembrance Sunday in Holy Trinity School Hall

It was with very real pleasure that we welcomed Fr. Andrew Wadsworth and his wife, Rachel, to our Remembrance Service. Fr. Andrew led the prayers at the village War Memorial and took the service in the school hall afterwards. He spoke movingly of his father's wartime service, but pointed out that service encompasses many areas of society and does not just apply to wartime. Service to others, and of 'stepping up' when things needed to be done creates the bonds that hold society together.



It must have felt strange to wear school uniform on a Sunday, but the choir of Holy Trinity School turned up looking their best and concluded the service with two short but haunting songs that summed up the sense of loss experienced by so many as a result of conflict, as well as the importance of holding loved ones in our memories. They sang beautifully and it is to be

hoped that this is not the only time they share our service. Our thanks go to all of them, the teachers who trained and encouraged them and also to all parents and their families who made the time to support them and join in the service.

Thanks are also due to everyone who helped with the service: our organist and assistant, Sara and Vicky; the choristers' mums' choir who sang



the anthems and provided descants, to visitors who joined us – perhaps for the first time – to the ladies making and serving coffee as efficiently as they did with much greater numbers than usual, and to everyone who hauled chairs about, swept up and departed leaving the school as pristine as we had found it. Only those who attended will know that the school hall had been full to bursting point, with people standing in the corridor and everyone sharing their service books.

Sarah Stockdale



Cookham Parish Council

It is a great pleasure to write this column for the Parish Council in this magazine. We wish to improve our communication and people's understanding of what we do and can do, so we are grateful to be able to use The Cookhams Parish Magazine for this purpose.

The Parish Council (founded in 1894) is the oldest of our local Councils. It is an important part of local life in Cookham. It owns and runs the Alfred Major Recreation Ground ("AMRG"), the Harris-Woodbridge Nature Reserve (currently maintained for us by WildCookham), and Stonehouse Common. It also owns and runs the Alleyns Lane, AMRG and Sutton Road allotments, as well as the Chapel, Cemetery and Cemetery Lodge in Long Lane.

The Parish Council is consulted about all planning applications in the Parish. It is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish which will supplement the Borough Local Plan. It also enforces Byelaws over Odney Common and the Moor, co-operating closely with their owners. Naturally, we work closely with our Borough Councillors, both of whom are also Parish Councillors.

Our latest news includes that in August Jill Gavin, our long-serving Clerk, left us. I am pleased to say that Deepa Kanthi, her replacement, started work on 18 November. In the interim we have been very well looked after by Christine Hunter, our Assistant Clerk, along with Hilda and Jonathan Holder, our Locum Clerks. They have all done an excellent job. They will all be supporting Deepa as she gets her feet under the table.

During November, we launched our new website. We have moved from <http://www.cookhamparishcouncil.org.uk> to <https://www.cookham-pc.gov.uk>. (So the Parish and all Councillors' email addresses have changed too. Don't

worry: everything is forwarded automatically.) We hope people will find the new website both easier to use and more informative – and enjoyable.

Also during November, the Council unanimously confirmed approval of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This followed (Regulation 14) consultation of the whole Parish, which had overwhelmingly approved it. As a result, the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party (five Councillors are joined by representatives of the Cookham Society, WildCookham, Save Cookham and Cookham's Footprint), had made a few tweaks to reflect comments in the consultation, approved it and sent it to the Parish Council for ratification. It has therefore now been forwarded to the Local Planning Authority – aka the Royal Borough – for (Regulation 16) consultation and Examination.

If changes are required as a result, it will come back to us to consider them. If all goes well, it will come to a Parish referendum next year. Please keep an eye on the adverts in each copy of this magazine which keep everyone up to date with progress every month.

More concretely, we are about to plant an orchard by the Sutton Road allotments (but far enough away not to affect them). This will add to the rural feel, increase bio-diversity and sequester carbon: win/win/wins. We hope for planting within the next couple of months.

We have put up some new 'Cookham Parish Council' signage to replace the existing ones on our noticeboards where they have been damaged or decayed. We don't want our Parish to get tatty!

Finally, we are about to undertake a major tender process for our grounds maintenance. If you are interested in applying, please let us know.

To close, may I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bill Perry
Chairman, Parish Council

PINDER HALL NEWS - DECEMBER 2024

With the Festive Season now upon us, there are some exciting events coming up at Pinder Hall! Take a look at what's on:

Sunday 24 November – Christmas Craft Fair

Start your gift buying at the Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 24 November - lots of choice. Open all day.

Sunday 1st December – Cookham Village Street Fair

Look out for the Pinder Hall Stall at the Fair, come along to chat to us about the hall and tell us how it could be an asset to you.

Thursday & Friday 5th and 6th December – Wreath-Making Workshop

Join our local expert florist Adam of Devine Flowers or a Christmas wreath making workshop – have fun creating your wreath and maybe a glass of bubbly too to celebrate, then take home a lovely decoration home for your front door.

Saturday 7th December, 6pm – Cookham Village Christmas Concert

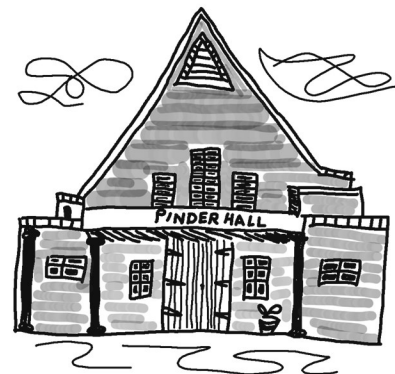
The Cookham Village Christmas Concert, featuring the Cookham Kids Singing Group, will be an unforgettable start to the holiday season. Ticket includes a Cowdery's

sausage roll, and a bar will be available.

If you would like to book the Hall for your event, club or activity go to our website www.pinderhall.org.uk/bookings.

Pinder Hall is Cookham's village hall, run solely by volunteers. We welcome help from anyone, but skills particularly needed are customer liaison, social media expertise, and those interested in organising and delivering fundraising activities.

If you would like to help your village Hall please message Ann Greenwood on secretary@pinderhall.org.uk



Christmas with Cantorum

A concert to get you into the Christmas spirit with carols old and new for all the family.

5.30pm Saturday 14th December 2024
 St Michael's Church, Bray SL6 2AB

Tickets: £20 (includes programme and drink)
 Under 18s £10/Under 10s Free
 Online at www.cantorumchoir.org.uk

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1136210

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Collection box locations:-

- Outside Cookham Rise Post Office
- Outside 78 Westwood Green
- Outside 56 Broomhill
- In the main porch of Cookham Dean Church

Don't forget Foodshare! Especially at Christmas

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Cookham Rise Methodist Church Newsletter

E-mail crmmethodist@gmail.com Tel: 07583 550821

Minister: Rev Vicci Davidson 07535 511421 rev.vicci@mail.com

For hall/church bookings contact Kathy Rickman on 01628 522797

Sunday Services for December 2024 and January 2025

For further information about these services please contact our Senior Steward, Kathy Rickman, on 522797

December 1st	10.30 a.m. Rev Vicci Davidson (Holy Communion)
December 8th	10.30 a.m. Nicola Shaw
December 15th	10.30 a.m. Kathy Rickman
December 19th	7.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight led by Rev Vicci Davidson
December 22nd	10.30 a.m. Barnabas Palfrey
December 25th	10.00 a.m. Christmas Day Service led by Kathy Rickman
December 29th	10.30 a.m. Local Arrangement
January 5th	10.30 a.m. Alan Crowle
January 12th	10.30 a.m. Neville Walton
January 19th	10.30 a.m. Josh Wilson 3–5 p.m. Ecumenical Songs of Praise and Teatime for the Soul – Rev Vicci Davidson
January 26th	10.30 a.m. Circuit Service at St Andrew's Methodist, Slough

The Wesley Hall is now available for regular use

On Monday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, Thursday and Friday evenings, and Saturdays daytime.

A warm, friendly and suitable venue for small exercise groups and meetings. Also available for one-off events including children's parties.

Please contact Kathy on 522797

Church Activities and events at the church

Thursday Circle – December 5th 2.30 – 4 p.m.

Visit to Flowerland Christmas Display

Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday December 7th 10 – 11.30 a.m.

Cakes, home-made preserves, gifts, books, jigsaws, children's stall and games, houseplants, raffle.

Church Christmas Lunch – December 15th 1 p.m.

Please book with Kathy Rickman (01628 522797) This will be instead of the monthly TeaTime for the Soul.

Teatime for the Soul – January 19th 3 – 5 p.m.

A short service with hymns chosen by the Cookham churches, prayers and a short reflection, followed by tea and cakes. All are welcome.

Come and Play for families of children under 5

Tuesdays 9.15 – 11.15, Fridays 10 – 12. Please see [cookhamrise.comeandplay](https://www.facebook.com/cookhamrise.comeandplay) on Facebook for more details.

Cookham Community Allotment Every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 10.00 – 11.30am. Social gathering at the end of each session. All welcome.

Regular activities on church premises

Please contact the hall user for further information

Seated Exercises (07900 204001)	Mon 1.30- 2.15pm
Rainbow Guides (01628 532279)	Mon after school
Cantorum Choir Rehearsals	Mon 7.45 - 9.45pm
Big Band Practice (07809 594105)	Tues evenings
Seated Yoga	Wed 9.15 - 10.15am
Tai Chi (debbie@taichi44.co.uk)	Wed 8 - 9pm
Baby (up to 36 months) and Me	Thu 10.30 - 11.15am
Balletbums (adults) (07841 610251)	Thurs 12.15 -1.00pm

A Prayer for the Cookham Churches

*God of love, we pray for the Cookham churches
Where your love has been known for many years.
We pray that we will welcome everyone in Jesus' name
And that, as your love pours in,
It will overflow to our neighbours.
May each person come to know that they are loved by you
And to love you in return.
May all grow in faith as we learn and pray together,
And may our faith be seen in action. Amen*

Ecochurch thoughts and Biblical Commentary

"Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty." Albert Einstein

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. 1 Corinthians 10: 26

Methodist Minister Vicci Davidson writes:

Dear Friends,

This month we hear more about John the Baptist, that man who was "The voice of one calling in the wilderness 'prepare ye the way of the Lord'." I wonder if sometimes he felt that he was not so much calling in the wilderness as whistling down the wind. There are times, are there not, when we feel like that about sharing our own faith? It is not so much that we can't, or that we don't dare, but more that other people just don't seem to care. Even our own families who we worked so hard to bring up in the faith, may have fallen away or become indifferent to something that is for us so very important.

And yet... perhaps at this time of year when the darkness is lit by little points of light, little points of hope, others might still recognise something of the glory and the promise of the Christmas story. If the stars are not as bright in our light-polluted landscapes as they were on that first Christmas Eve, still there is something magical about the twinkle of lights in the High Street, our neighbour's houses, on our Christmas trees. If the lights where you are don't shine that brightly, or are too garish for your tastes, drive out to Cookham one evening and enjoy the magic of the little High Street lit by thousands of white Christmas lights.

What do they represent, these little lights? Well, they remind us of the star which wise men followed of course, but it seems to me that in this time of fear and worry, these little twinkling points of light in the gloom remind us that there is always hope. That in the context of no room at the inn, there was still a stable. In the context of a King desperate to maintain his own power, there were still people prepared to disobey him, and gifts that allowed the little family to flee to Egypt. In the context of poverty and a little-respected job as shepherds, angels appeared to tell the Good News. In the context of fear and occupation, a child was born, a Son was given and from that tiny, surprising, scarce-witnessed beginning, a hope was sent to the entire world that even today is offered, needed and longed for.

Let us pray this Advent, that some at least will follow the lights of town centres and homes across the Circuit all the way to the door of the Church and on arriving will find that there is room for them.

God bless, Vicci

St Elizabeth's Catholic Church

Lower Road, Cookham



We would like to welcome everyone especially those whose worship was disrupted by the pandemic.

**Sunday Mass
9.15am**

**Christmas Day
9.15am**

Advent Bible Study Course led by Rev Vicci Davidson

**Tuesdays December 3rd, 10th, 17th
2.30 – 4 p.m.**

A generation or so ago, if you asked unchurched people what they knew about the Bible, they might have replied "Isn't it all a whole lot of so and so begat so and so?" "A was the father of B, was the father of C" may not strike us as an exciting way to start a story, but Matthew was writing for a Jewish audience, and one who knew their scriptures.

If he wanted them to take Jesus of Nazareth seriously as the long-awaited Messiah, he knew that he had to establish that Jesus came from Abraham and was in the line of King David. God had promised that the Messiah would be a descendant of David, and this is what Matthew sets out to show.

However, he was also up to something else. Matthew adds in something usually left out of Jewish genealogies of the time, he puts in some of the mothers' names. Not all of them, not even all the ones that we know, like Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah. He puts in four foreign women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba. These women were non-Jews, and their stories are uncomfortable. They are in a way, the skeletons in Jesus' family closet, but they make clear to us the hope of Christmas. The hope that Christmas brings is for everyone. Whether society has decreed us to be insiders or outsiders, Jesus came for all of us.

Come and join us on three Tuesdays in Advent to discover more about these fascinating women. 3rd, 10th, 17th of December at 2:30 - 4pm at Cookham Rise Methodist Church. All are welcome.

Cookham and Cookham Dean Horticultural Society 2025

Wednesday 29th January at 7.30pm

Pin Me To The Wall And Do What You Want With Me
Andrew Mikolajski, Writer, Speaker and RHS judge

Wednesday 26th February at 7.30pm

The Money-Saving Gardener
Anya Lautenbach, Digital Creator and Author

Wednesday 26th March at 7.30pm

Spring Show

Dates for the rest of 2025 are as follows:-

Wednesday 30th April

Wednesday 28th May

Wednesday 24th September

Wednesday 29th October

Wednesday 26th November

More details in forthcoming editions

Meetings are held at Cookham Dean Village Hall



Services Calendar for December 2024

HTC - Holy Trinity, Cookham

SJB - St John Baptist, Cookham Dean

December 1st - Advent Sunday

HT School 11.00 Parish Eucharist
1 Thessalonians 3:9-end; Luke 21:25-36

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
1 Thessalonians 3:9-end; Luke 21:25-36
16.00 Families@4 for Christingle

December 4th - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

December 8th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

HT School 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
18.30 Advent Carols at St John the Baptist

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
18.30 Advent Carols with Holy Trinity Choirs

December 11th - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

December 15th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

HT School 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 18th - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

December 22nd - 4th Sunday before Advent

HT School 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45
18:00 Nine Lessons and Carols

December 24th - Christmas Eve

HT Church 16.00 Crib Service OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

SJB 16.00 Crib Service
23.00 Midnight Mass
Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

December 25th - Christmas Day

HT School 11.00 Festival Eucharist
Isaiah 62:6-end; Luke 2:1-20

SJB 09.15 Festival Eucharist
Isaiah 62:6-end; Luke 2:1-20
(this service will be livestreamed/recorded)

18.30 Christmas Carols at St John the Baptist

18.30 Christmas Carols with Holy Trinity Choirs

December 29th - 1st Sunday of Christmas

HT School 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-end

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-end

Prayer Diary

December
2024



1	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Our Ministry to Children and the Children's Society
2	Monday	Our Ministry Team
3	Francis Xavier, missionary	Our Diocesan Bishop's Council
4	John of Damascus, monk and teacher	Our PCCs
5	Thursday	Our Flower Arrangers
6	Nicolas, Bishop of Myra	Elizabeth House
7	Ambrose, bishop, teacher	Our Parish Council
8	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Our Church Buildings especially Holy Trinity
9	Monday	Those who live in Religious Communities
10	Tuesday	Headteachers, Teachers and Assistants
11	Wednesday	Darby Pensioners
12	Thursday	Those with Dementia and their Families
13	Lucy, martyr of Syracuse	Those who cannot express their faith freely
14	John of the Cross, teacher	Local Scouts and Guides
15	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Our Servers and Altar Assistants
16	Monday	Local Businesses
17	Tuesday	Our School Christmas Activities
18	Wednesday	Harwood House Care Home
19	Thursday	Our Medical Centre Doctors and Staff
20	Friday	Royal Mail and Parcel Delivery staff
21	Saturday	Our Bellringers
22	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Our Choirs
23	Monday	Those who are alone this Christmas
24	Christmas Eve	For children everywhere
25	CHRISTMAS DAY	All Christians across the world
26	Stephen, deacon, martyr	The Clergy of our Deanery
27	St John the Evangelist	The Bible Society and Open the Book
28	The Holy Innocents	For Children in Care
29	FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	
30	Monday	The work of Foodshare
31	John Wyclif, reformer	Thanksgiving for the year ending today



Shoe Boxes

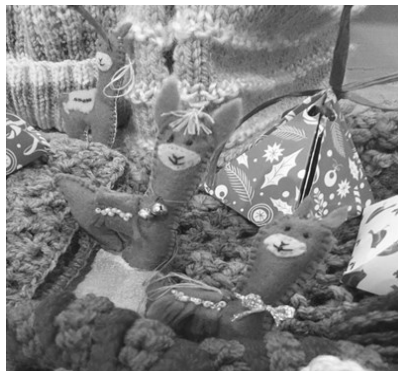
Hello to all the shoebox contributors.

I am happy to tell you that the boxes were collected today, and we had 50 in total. I am so thrilled to think about the 50 people, in either Ukraine or Kosovo, who will be opening their boxes, at Christmas, with big smiles on their faces.

Thank You All So Much.

Wishing Everyone a Very Happy Christmas.

With Love, Jill Cruse



Save the Date: Monday 9th December

Once again the nimble fingers of our Knit1Purl1 Circle have been busy devising ways of keeping everyone warm this Winter.

Do come and join us in the Parish Centre on Monday 9th December between 11am and 3pm where we will be offering coffee and cakes and the opportunity to find one-of-a-kind knitted and textile items as well as decorations that are not available anywhere else. Please Save the Date and tell your friends. Everyone is welcome and all the proceeds will be going towards the heating and reordering that is underway.

Bernadette Clark

Services Calendar for January 2025

HTC - Holy Trinity, Cookham

SJB - St John Baptist, Cookham Dean

January 5th - Epiphany Sunday

HT School 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

January 8th - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Service of the Word

January 12th - 1st Sunday after Epiphany - The Baptism of Christ

HT School 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

18.30 Epiphany Carols at St John the Baptist

18.30 Epiphany Carols with Holy Trinity Choirs

January 15th - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

January 19th - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

HT School 11.00 Parish Eucharist
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 22nd - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

January 26th - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

HT School 11.00 Parish Eucharist
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
(this service will be livestreamed/recorded)

January 29th - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

February 2nd - Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

HT School 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Hebrews 2:14-end; Luke 2:22-40

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Hebrews 2:14-end; Luke 2:22-40

18.30 Choral Evensong at St John the Baptist

18.30 Choral Evensong for Candlemas
with Holy Trinity choirs
Haggai 2:1-9; John 2:18-22

Prayer Diary

January
2025



1	New Year's Day	For the year ahead of us
2	Basil and Gregory; bishops and teachers	Bishop Steven and his Family
3	Friday	Archdeacon Stephen and his Family
4	Saturday	For our search for an Assistant Priest
5	EPIPHANY SUNDAY	Those who are seeking the truth
6	Monday	Our Deanery Synod
7	Tuesday	Elizabeth House
8	Lucian, priest and martyr	Fr Stephen, David and their families
9	Thursday	Our Refuse and Recycling Services
10	William Laud; archbishop	The process to appoint a new Archbishop
11	Mary Slessor; missionary	All those who work abroad
12	THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST	Our Baptism Ministry
13	Hilary; bishop, teacher	Our Parish Magazine Team
14	Tuesday	Cookham Voluntary Services
15	Wednesday	Cookham Medical Centre and Pharmacy
16	Thursday	Our Funeral Ministry
17	Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot	Our Wedding Ministry
18	Amy Carmichael, spiritual writer	Our Parish Office and Administrator
19	2nd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY	Our Sidesmen and Coffee Makers
20	Fabian, Bishop of Rome	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
21	Agnes, child martyr	Those who die for their faith
22	Vincent, deacon and martyr	Our Churchwardens
23	Thursday	Our PCCs
24	Francis de Sales; bishop, teacher	Our School Governors
25	The Conversion of St Paul	That the light may shine in unlikely places
26	3rd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY	Our Organists and Choirs
27	Timothy and Titus; companions of Paul	All those who play a supporting role
28	Thomas Aquinas, priest and philosopher	Our preparations for Lent
29	Wednesday	The work being done at Holy Trinity
30	King Charles I, martyr	King Charles III and The Royal Family
31	John Bosco, priest	All clergy in our diocese

The Most Beautiful Story

A well-known atheist was being interviewed on Radio 4. When asked how he spent Christmas, he said that he went to Midnight Mass at church. "But you're an atheist", his interviewer protested. "Yes", he replied, "but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told."

That 'beautiful story' tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number about two billion people all over the world – believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

That is certainly quite a story, perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes, beautiful. And that is the story that will be rehearsed again this Christmas, in children's Nativities, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year turn up to hear it, and who can blame them? This is a story of hope, of love and of heaven touching earth.

Probably the best-known statue in the world is 'Christ the

Redeemer', towering over the South American city of Rio de Janeiro, His arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough.

His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, it is 'the most beautiful story ever told'. Enjoy it again this Christmas.

David Winter



Cookham Community Allotment

The end of one year and the start of a new one is always a good time to look back on memorable events and take stock.

How will we remember 2024? Too much rain! too many slugs and snails with young plants disappearing before they could grow more than one set of leaves. Struggling to get our beans up the poles and the squash to grow...until we mulched with 'Strulch' which seemed to deter the snails long enough for the plants to get going.

Putting a new tool store up to replace our other one which blew inside out once too many times.

Receiving help in the form of unwanted tools, equipment and cardboard from the local community.

Celebrating our tenth birthday with gardeners past and present. Enjoying, eventually, record harvests of beans, tomatoes and chard. Welcoming new gardeners to our Community plots, plus visitors and grandchildren.

Introducing newcomers to the joys of composting, growing physalis and sweetcorn. Encouraging youngsters from the local school, and 'Squirrels' group to learn about growing and harvesting food, and to look after wildlife. Sharing cake, recipes, jokes and reminiscences. Supporting each other through tough times.

This last week we have had some enjoyable sessions in the sunshine raking up the fallen leaves locally which as usual we will store for leaf mould and to mulch our empty vegetable plots with. At the last count we had gathered about 80 bags full!

We look forward to a new season of growing starting in February. During January we hope to meet at the Wesley Hall, Cookham, to clean and sharpen tools, make soup and sort seeds.

If you are interested in joining us on any of our sessions, please contact Becky Pinniger on 07821710204, or just come to the Alfred Major site on Tuesday and Saturday mornings 10.00-11.30.

Becky Pinniger



Cookham Twinning

We were delighted to welcome twenty-one French visitors from Cookham's twinned village of Saint-Benoit over the weekend of 26th-28th October, with several events in a crowded schedule.

The visitors stayed with local families, who were organised so that conversations could flow in either French or English. Interestingly Cookham has more French speakers than the number of English speakers from Saint-Benoit.

The weekend started with a reception hosted by the Chairman of Cookham Parish Council, Bill Perry, and attended by the Mayor of Saint-Benoit, Bernard Peterlongo, and by the Deputy Mayor of Windsor and Maidenhead, Mandy Brar. The visitors received copies of the 'Discover Cookham' books, with a challenge to find several of the locations on the following day.

A highlight of the stay was a visit to Blenheim Palace, (celebrating the victory of the English over the French at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704), and the Churchill exhibition there proved particularly interesting to our guests. We then went on to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, where we attempted to find the top ten treasures of the museum, taking us through every floor.

We entertained the visitors with a traditional English skittles evening and Fish and Chip supper at Flackwell Heath Bowling Club, where honours were shared between the two countries. On the final evening we joined together for a social at Pinder Hall with a great display from Datchet Border Morris, with hosts and visitors being encouraged to participate in a Morris Dance together.

Cookham and Saint-Benoit formally started their Twinning link in 1994, so this was the 30th anniversary of the start of the connection. A group from Cookham will be visiting Saint-Benoit in October next year, and there are other regular links between the two villages.

Keith Le Page

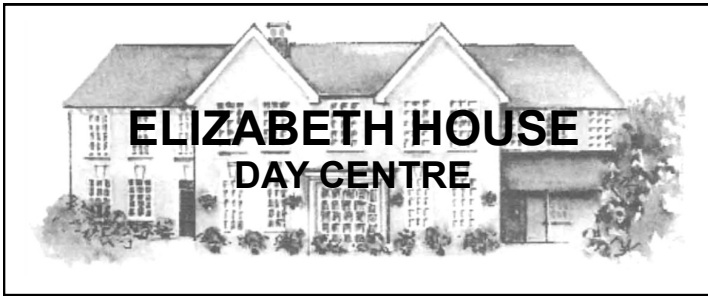


The story of mince pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

Mistletoe's smelly history

Did you know that the word 'mistletoe' means dung on a tree? The Anglo-Saxons thought that mistletoe grew in trees where birds had left their droppings. Mistel means dung, and tan means twig.



ELIZABETH HOUSE DAY CENTRE

We have our **Christmas Tombola** outside Elizabeth House on the **7th December 10am to 12pm**, it is our last fundraiser of the year, we are looking for any kind donations of any bottles of wines or spirits etc, or any small Christmas gifts, any donations would be greatly appreciated, thank you in anticipation, please come and support us, we hope to see you all there.

We always welcome **new members**, our members get to enjoy a **fresh 2 course lunch cooked daily**, also lots of fun activities throughout the week, including exercise classes on a Wednesday and Friday.

You will also have access to the **Chiropodist** who is here on a Tuesday, if you have a friend or family member that you feel may be interested in coming in for coffee or a trial day, please call me on 01628 527621.

Dawn

Help to **fundraise** by entering the local Community Lottery

Enter our
Super Draw
Win a PS5 Pro bundle!
OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE

- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Chance to win up to £25,000
- Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!




**WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD
COMMUNITY LOTTERY**

Using the QR code will take you straight to the Elizabeth House Donation page.

Registered Charity No 1188342



Marquee for Hire



Our smart striped 12m x 6m (40' x 20') marquee is available for local hire

Competitive rates – Full service or self-erect

Contact: kocdmarquee@yahoo.com or 07768 843 476

Having fun – Helping good causes – Since 1900

Compassion Café

Please join us at our next Compassion Café on Wednesday 6th November, being our regular meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.



Elizabeth House have kindly provided us with a room where we can gather. All ages welcome and easy parking nearby at Station Hill car park.

It is a safe and confidential environment and a place to connect with others who have been affected by bereavement or any kind of loss, and is a way to forge new friendships and connections.

If you would like to chat and hear more about our gatherings please email oakencoppice@hotmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you

Date: 1st Wednesday of the month
Venue: Elizabeth House
Time: 9.30-11.00 am



COOKHAM VOLUNTARY SERVICES

A chance to take part in a key local community service!
CVS is a local self-funding community organisation, which provides an essential role taking people who need help with transport to get to medical appointments. We depend entirely on volunteers to meet the needs of members of the community.

Due to retirements and movements out of the area, we are still short of volunteers. If you live locally and have some spare time available, can you help?

We need volunteers in two areas: -

1. In the office at Elizabeth House 2-3 hours, one morning a week, to take requests for transport.
2. Drivers - we pay mileage rate and cover parking and other charges on trips to hospitals, usually local.



If you think you might be able to help, please contact the CVS office on 01628 523839 (10-12.00 Monday-Friday), or at pefc@tapestryoflife.co.uk, for further details.

There's a lot of water around us here and it's likely that there'll be more in the future, thanks to climate change. But there are some simple things we can do at home to help tackle flooding and our natural world at the same time. Here are a few suggestions.

Save it! Partly because of our drainage infrastructure, much of our rainwater ends up in the sewage system, leading to all sorts of problems. So let's stop some of it getting there. The easiest way is with water butts. We should all be using water butts to harvest water that we can use later. A project in Bristol recently installed 120 water butts on domestic properties and stored 30,000 litres of water. A drop in the ocean perhaps, but if we all....

Don't pave! If you need a firm surface (for cars etc), make sure it's permeable, allowing water to soak into the ground. Solid surfaces just take water into the drainage system. Crazy!

Let your roof take some of the pressure! Not for everyone but green roofs, with grass, wild flowers etc, are becoming popular. And they provide another surface that can soak up water – as well as providing additional pollinating plants and a great talking point!

Create a pond! Many people in Cookham have created a pond over recent years. The bigger the better - but a very small one, even just an old sink, will serve. It is one of the best things you can do for wildlife and again, it holds the water and prevents it heading into the drain.

Create a Community Pond! OK, that's a big step but communities up and down the country are doing just that. Sometimes it can be restoring an old pond: more than 50% of all ponds have been filled over the past century, further exacerbating our flooding problem. WildCookham would love to support groups of residents who see the opportunity for a new or restored public pond with all the benefits and pleasure that will bring.

There's loads of information and help on-line about ponds and their creation and maintenance. Or contact us at wildcookham@gmail.com. And, if you have a pond, share your photos of it and the wildlife in it on our Facebook page.

All life comes from water. Let's protect it – and enjoy it!

See more about WildCookham at www.wildcookham.org.uk and on Facebook and Instagram.

Mike Copland

This will be our last (and 88th) monthly column. Since February 2017 we have sought to share our enthusiasm for growing both edible and ornamental plants and pass on any hints and tips that we have found to work. We are however, becoming aware that there is an increasing danger of repetition as the years pass. One of the joys of gardening is that it keeps us in touch with the passing of the seasons as the bursting of buds, falling of leaves, swelling of crops and lists of jobs follow an annual rhythm. On the downside this means that we can end up writing the same thing as in previous years.

For those of you that have been following this year's focus on edibles, we hope that like us you are looking forward to a Christmas dinner dominated by your own produce and subsequent cold collations on tables groaning with your own pickles. This leads us to our final thought in this series – the importance of looking forwards.

Much is made of the contribution that gardening can make to physical and mental health and we think that a major part of the latter is that it is an inherently optimistic pastime. Whether you are sowing seeds, preparing beds and borders, planting out, pruning or weeding, you are making a positive investment in the future. The fact that the rewards of these efforts can be beautiful and delicious (and quite often both) is an extra bonus over and above the positive mindset required to make them. We will certainly be continuing to follow this mantra over the years to come.

Even though this is our last Parish Magazine article, the full archive is available at

<http://www.redkiteadvice.co.uk/category/hints-tips/>



To misquote the late John Ebdon of Radio 4 – if you have been, thanks for reading.

A really big thanks to Mark at Red Kite for all the tips over the last 7 years! Editor.

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New Exhibition

7 November - 30 March

Thursday - Sunday

11:00 - 16:30

Last Entry 16:00

This sensitive portrayal of five-year-old Roy Lacey leaning over the back of the church pew was drawn by the untrained Stanley Spencer.

(1891-1959) when he was sixteen years old. It was acquired for the Gallery in 1993 with assistance from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Art Fund and has proved a perennially popular image with visitors.

It's a charming scene, set in Holy Trinity church in Cookham. Roy stands on the pew, peering over to see what he could see, just as Spencer peered over fences and walls in his native village, always finding something of interest in the unseen. Roy can be seen in the exhibition **SEEING THE UNSEEN: Reality and Imagination in the Art of Stanley Spencer**, now open at the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham (to March 30 2025).

The Lacey family were close friends with the Spencers. Mother Minnie Lacey was a friend of Stanley's mother Annie, and the boys often played together. Her husband Ernest ran a local boatyard, taking over from his widowed mother Elizabeth. Guy Lacey (1893-1956) would swim and walk with Stanley and Gilbert Spencer (1892- 1979) and Guy's younger brother Malcom (1900-1990) would tag along. Lacey's Boatyard was on the Cookham side of the bridge, and the boathouse featured in several of Spencer's paintings – most notably in *View from Cookham Bridge* (also in the Exhibition) and *Swan Upping*. (Tate)

Another of Stanley's brothers, Sydney, wrote in his diary of their swimming and walking sessions – sometimes accompanied by Guy's Airedale terrier – which itself featured in Spencer's painting *The Bridge* (Tate).

Guy and Stanley must have made an odd couple – Guy was tall and athletic and won many rowing and swimming competitions. He would have had much more in common with Stanley's brother Gilbert, who was equally tall and

well built. Guy was a bright boy, and he attended the Royal School of Mines (now part of Imperial College) in Kensington – in what is now the V&A building) and took the train most mornings from Cookham, often accompanying Spencer as he travelled to the Slade School of Art.

Roy was the fourth child in the family. The boys had an elder sister Leonora, the first born. Sadly, for his mother Minnie, Roy's father Ernest, died just weeks before Roy was born, leaving her to run the boatyard. Nine-year-old Guy would have had to share the responsibility of looking after him and undoubtedly Stanley and Gilbert would have spent time amusing the small boy. Roy never did grow up – dying of a childhood illness when he was just 8 years old. This portrait of Roy – drawn from life – must have been a very precious thing for his mother to see.

The pews captured in this drawing, which were part of Victorian reordering of the church in 1861 and therefore "modern" in terms of Holy Trinity's history, have now been removed to allow for a much-needed new heating system to be installed. Virtually all of the pews have thankfully found new homes.

Whilst most of the pews have already been sold, if you would like to see if any are still available, please contact Mike Clark at mike@tapestryoflife.co.uk

(Image credits: Stanley Spencer - ©Estate Stanley Spencer, SSG)



The Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham is looking for wonderful volunteers to join its team of Custodians.

The Gallery is one of the few entirely volunteer-run, nationally accredited art galleries in the country and the team of 40+ Custodians sign up for three hour shifts as and when they are available.

Benefits include joining a well organised local charity and sharing Spencer's art with visitors from all over the world. Training in Custodian duties will be given and there are regular opportunities for Custodians to meet together.

For more information email John French at custodians@stanleyspencer.org.uk



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Holy Trinity Primary School

For many Christmas is a very special time of year which, in a school, is particularly magical. There is nothing more exciting than rehearsing the Nativity, planning parties, putting up the Christmas tree, sending cards and enjoying a delicious Christmas lunch. It is a time of coming together and appreciating the importance of community.

Since the new academic year began we have thought a lot about the value of working collaboratively and the power of supporting one another in all we do. There isn't a day goes by without someone being commended for the patience, kindness and thoughtfulness they have shown another. Our ethos is built on friendship and respect, two things which everyone understands and strives to demonstrate.

In the last couple of months, community has been at the core of a number of school events. Perhaps you were present on Monday 11th November when the whole school walked to the War Memorial in the village to be led in a service of remembrance by our oldest children.

Poems were read, prayers were spoken and the significance of the day was shared. A two minutes silence was marked before a poppy was laid and a song, reminding us of those who have fallen, rang out.

The event followed Holy Trinity Church's Service for Remembrance Sunday which began at the War Memorial but this year concluded in our school. With so many in attendance, there was standing room only! It was a

beautiful service led by Father Andrew with Sara and the ladies' choir adding poignancy to the proceedings with the anthems they sang. To end the service, our Senior and Junior Choir also performed. We were delighted to be part of the service and proud of the contribution we made.

Children in Need, also in November, gave us another opportunity to come together and make a difference. It's one of the many charities we support and this year, to tie in with our Maths and Computing Week which ran at the same time, we all dressed up in colours which can be found on a Rubik's Cube. In doing so, we raised a considerable amount for those who need it most.

Christmas is a time to celebrate, to bring people together and to share in everything which is good in the world. Let's hope that by promoting the importance of service, whether it's at Christmas or any other time in the year, acts of kindness, friendship and compassion will prevail.

From everyone at Holy Trinity C of E Primary, we wish you a wonderful Christmas full of peace, joy and love and we look forward to continuing to welcome you to our school for Sunday services in the new year.



Anna Smith
Head Teacher

Cookham Dean Primary School

Half term holidays have been and gone and we are now certainly in the lead up to Christmas. Children and staff have already starting asking about Christmas – but one little girl was adamant that we shouldn't be talking about Christmas until 1st December. I agree but in a primary school that is hard to do! Christingle practises, nativity practises, carol service practises, costumes, nativity scenes and santa's appearance at our Christmas dinner to name but a few.

It is such a special time in a primary school with the excitement and busyness that comes with Christmas.

We are very much looking forward to our Families @4 service on Sunday 1st December at 4pm. A family service run by the children from school and this service will be focussing on Christingle. The children will be making Christingles, singing and finding out all about the Christingle's meaning. Please do join us for the start of our festivities.

This term we said a sad goodbye to Richard Simmonds who has been taking assemblies at our school for many years. The children always loved his assemblies and were

always excited to see him. Richard came to deliver his final assembly and presented the school with a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ. The children sang their hearts out and gave Richard a warm farewell. Richard will still remain on our Board of Governors for the present time. Thank you Richard for all your support!

As I write this article, I am reminded that today is World Kindness Day. The children joined an online assembly today by 52 Lives – a charity that aims to change lives and inspire kindness. In the past, children from Cookham Dean have written letters of support to a little girl who had to look after her brother who was ill. You can nominate someone you know ; 52 Lives will help and the world changes one life at a time. What a powerful gift we could have just by being kind. Happy World Kindness Day!



Fenella Reekie
Head Teacher



The Extra Special Baby - Story of the Christmas Promise

by Antonia Woodward, SPCK, £10.99

A long time ago, a long way away, some very clever men discovered an exciting promise! For in Bethlehem one night, under the quiet starry sky, an Extra Special Baby was born.

This beautiful retelling of the Nativity story will take children back to the excitement of that very first Christmas night, when life on earth would change forever. A helpful picture book to share with a child at bedtime, or with a group of children during the Christmas season.

Herries Preparatory School

Year 5 were excited and nervous about coming in to school Friday morning for their Victorian day. They had to sit up very straight for Mrs Milburn and Mrs Voice and used traditional chalk boards for their Maths lesson. They then enjoyed some light relief playing traditional Victorian games with Sir Denton outside!

Year 3 and 4 children made their very own Pudsey Bear in the woods. They used their creative skills and the natural materials from the woodland surrounding Herries to make their very own Bear! The Herries children enjoyed all the fundraising activities for Children in Need, especially the Teddy Bear fashion show organised by Year 6 charity Prefects!

We were delighted to be shortlisted for 'Outstanding Sport in a Small School' at the Independent School Awards and to be one of 3 finalists out of 674 Prep Schools for this category. Mr Denton has been instrumental in creating a dynamic and inclusive sports program here at Herries. This nomination was a testament to his dedication and the hard work of both staff and students. Let's continue to support and celebrate the importance of sport in shaping well-rounded, confident, and healthy individuals.

Some of Y3, Y5 & Y6 travelled to Surrey Sports Park last Friday morning with Mr Denton, our Head of Sport and Mr Grosse, Headteacher to take part in the ISA swimming qualifiers. They really enjoyed the morning.

On Remembrance day Mr Grosse talked to the children about the history of Remembrance Day and why we wear a Poppy as a symbol in assembly. We all paused together as a school to remember the fallen at 11am. Yr6 then visited Cookham Dean war memorial to lay the Herries wreath. The wreath looked stunning with a centre designed by Ella. We read the inscriptions and had a moment to reflect on the local families who lost their relatives in WWI and WWII. Our charity representatives, Mariella and Ella, have collected all our donations every day which will help the poppy appeal.



Robert Grosse
Headteacher
Herries Preparatory School
and Nursery Co-ed 2 - 11 years
ISI Inspection - Excellent in All Areas
Instagram (HerriesWindintheWillows)



Cookham Dean WI

Meeting on Thursday 14th November

Our meeting this month commenced with a short business meeting, detailing forthcoming events, including our January lunch and the current finance.

Our speaker for this month was Andy Kempe, whose talk was entitled "The curious case of Crookham Common", which told of the history of what is now known as Greenham Common.

Before the building of an airfield, Greenham Common was a piece of common land. It was used for troop movements during the English Civil War and in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. For some of that time it also had a firing range at its Western end. The Greenham Lodge Estate, which was set in the midst on Greenham Common, was requisitioned by the Air Ministry in 1941. The first arrival was the U.S. Army Air Forces 51st Troop Carrier Wing Headquarters, arriving in September 1942. Winston Churchill, Charles De Gaulle and Dwight Eisenhower met at Greenham in November 1942 to plan Operation Torch, the invasion of French North Africa. After Strategic Air Command left Greenham Common in 1964, the site was primarily used as a mail sorting and storage facility. Beginning in 1973 the base became the home of the International Air Tattoo.

A Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp was established in protest at the deployment of cruise missiles in 1981. The protestors became known as "the Greenham women" or "peace women", and their 19-year protest drew worldwide media and public attention.

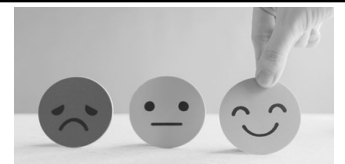
Greenham Control Tower was built between 1951 and 1953 to replace the original WW2 tower that was located on the opposite side of what was then a military airfield. The building lay empty for many years after RAF Greenham Common closed in September 1992, but was bought by Greenham Parish Council in 2014. In 1997 Greenham Common was designated as public parkland, effectively returning it to its pre-Second World War status but with restrictions. Greenham and Crookham Commons became a Site of Special Scientific Interest

The meeting concluded with the usual tea and cake.

New members are always assured of a warm and friendly welcome. We meet at 2pm on the second Thursday of every month in the WI hall. Our next meeting will be on Thursday Dec 12th, 2024.

Lorna Sykes

The WI hall is available to rent at very reasonable rates, information available at hirecdwihall@cookhamdeanwi.org.uk



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CLOSING CURTAINS AT NIGHT COULD REDUCE DRAUGHTS AND ENERGY BY UP TO 20%

That's an incredible figure and obviously depends on the glazing in your windows and whether the curtains or blinds have thermal linings. But it really can make an enormous difference. Once the sun has dropped there's a noticeable arctic chill in the air at the moment, and that's when everyone should dash around closing blinds and curtains. Keep in the heat £££.

If you're having issues with condensation on the inside of windows it could be time to look into modern low emissive double glazing. If that's not possible then there are several ways to manage it:

- Clear up any condensation each morning to prevent mould occurring.

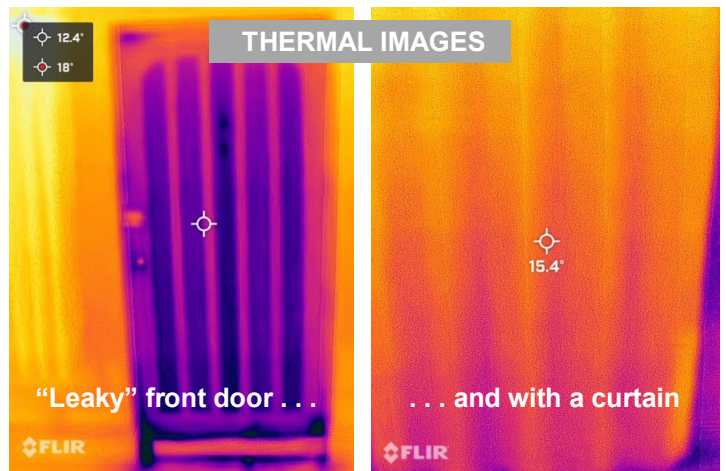
- Avoid drying clothes on radiators and in the house as much as possible. If you have no choice, do it in one room like the bathroom, keeping the door shut and either open a window, or use a low energy dehumidifier.
- Always use an extract fan or open a window when cooking or showering.
- Monitor humidity levels with a humidistat. (currently about £8 on Amazon). If the level exceeds 60%, then open the window and let some cooler and dryer air in.

High humidity can cause mould and has been linked to the development of asthma.

Many of you attended our very first SMART ENERGY SHOW at Moor Hall. But if you missed it, Marlow are holding another in the Spring. Look up www.smartenergyshow.co.uk for details of both Shows. If you'd like any help from us you can also look up on our new website www.cookhamsfootprint.co.uk to find Fact Sheets, and Case Studies of local homes who have improved their energy efficiency, and installed Green Technologies.

And finally – PRELOVED FREECYCLE is on Saturday 7th December at Cookham Library 10.00am to 12.00pm for TOYS BOOKS AND HOMEWARE. You can drop off donations from 9.30am. Bring the kids and let them choose some presents to give the family.

Sue Teasdale



YOUR COOKHAM, YOUR PLAN

  #ourcookham

We are pleased to report that the Cookham Neighbourhood Plan and all supporting material has been submitted to RB Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM) for independent examination.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Plan-making process, sharing their ideas and comments. Information on the examination process is on the RBWM website - you can find this by searching for 'RBWM Neighbourhood Plans'. Information is also on the Cookham Parish Council website:

<https://cookham-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

Future Cookham



To find out more, please scan me to visit the Parish Council website





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Cookham Medical Centre

Patient Participation Group

To receive regular updates of news from your medical centre sign up as a Friend of Cookham Surgery. You can do this on-line or download an application form via the PPG section of the Cookham Medical Centre Website – www.cookhammedicalcentre.co.uk.

Medical Centre Notes:

In the report in the November edition of the Parish Magazine, much focus was given to the changes which have taken place in the way in which NHS services are delivered to the patient community. Many of these changes are confusing to patients and in the case of older members of the community are too often delivered in new ways which they find difficult to understand or access, often requiring, or at least favouring the use of digital communication. New pathways to treatment are for many confusing and often involve radically new channels, new types of qualified healthcare professionals, new locations and hitherto totally different ways to access treatment. When you have been used to accessing health care in a particular way for several decades it is confusing and possibly worrying when the channels with which you are familiar and have learnt to trust are suddenly apparently blocked. These changes can be as confusing and unfamiliar to the medical professionals as to the patients. It is vital that both sides understand that the pressures of change apply equally to each and that just as patients are not intending to be unreasonable asking for access to treatment on the channels with which they know and trust, the surgery staff are not being obstructive and unreasonable in directing them to new and alternative pathways.

The PPG receives troubling accounts, from both sides of the argument, of conflict involving patients and surgery staff, especially Receptionists. These conflicts arise out of a lack of understanding of the changes in NHS procedures and policies and the fact that patients simply do not understand what is happening. The role of the familiar surgery receptionist is increasingly less about simply actioning a patient request for an appointment, but increasingly about directing the patient to the best channel to meet their treatment needs. It is difficult for many senior citizens, not least your correspondent, to understand that demanding an appointment with your GP may not be the best, and almost certainly not the fastest, way to receive treatment. At the same time, change almost always initially leads to confusion and also inefficiency. The PPG recognises that its role is to work with the Surgery to represent the patient community to overcome these issues and will be involved in discussions to the partners and staff to seek the best way to overcome the present very real problems. Simply arguing for having things “as they used to be” is not a realistic path. We need to create a channel for understanding and communication.

At the same time the problems we see in the delivery of services in the local NHS community are reflected at the

national level. The recent announcements by the new Government’s Health Minister make it clear that there is a fundamental problem in the overall management of the NHS which impacts not just on the patients but on the medical professionals who themselves are struggling to provide the standards of care and service to which they are committed.

Before you read this newsletter, the PPG will have met with representatives of the Medical Centre to try and come up with some constructive proposals to help the patient community better understand what is happening and the medical professionals to better understand the concerns of their patients. There is no magazine in January, but we will report back in the February edition.

One of the best ways of avoiding problems booking medical appointments is to keep healthy. The Patient Access platform (see the final paragraph of this newsletter) provides up to date advice on recognising and trying to avoid common health issues.

Medical Campaigns for December and January:

Publicity by charities and patient advisory bodies can serve as useful reminders of health issues and as signposts to where you find seek help or advice.

1st December. World Aids Day. A reminder that HIV AIDS is an ongoing issue around the globe and that whilst we need to celebrate the progress that has been achieved a lot more needs to be done.

3rd December. The International Day for People with Disabilities. Since 1992 the United Nations IDPD has drawn attention to all those around the world with any form of disability.

1 – 31 January. Dry January. An opportunity not just to recover from the excesses of the Festive Season, but a chance to reflect on the damage that alcohol consumption does to our health and social structures.

11-18 January. National Obesity Awareness Week. To recognise the growing impact of obesity in society and the impact it has on our health and the consumption of NHS resources.

20-26 January. Cervical Cancer Prevention Week.

Patient Information:

To receive regular information and advice about current health issues, and to gain access to other patient services, including re-ordering prescriptions online, register yourself on **Patient Access** – <https://patient.info/patient-access>.

Epilogue - giving generously over Christmas

Let us give according to our incomes lest God make our incomes to match our gifts. - *Anon*

The world provides enough for every man’s need, but not for every man’s greed. - *Gandhi*

If we have God in all things while they are ours, we shall have all things in God when they are taken away. - *Anon*

It is easier to renounce worldly possessions than it is to renounce the love of them. - *Walter Hilton*

Nothing influences a man so much as that which he calls his own. - *C H Spurgeon*



ELI ACTION

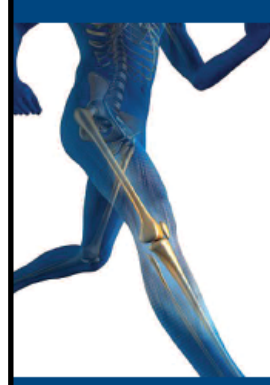
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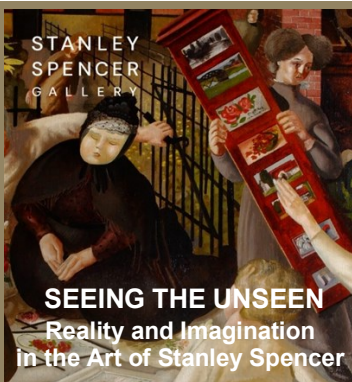
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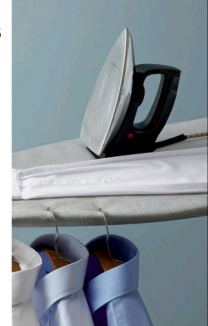
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Joanna
Year 5



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