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The Parish Magazine of Christ Church Derry Hill



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Office for Zero Emission Vehicles



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Any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writers and are not necessarily the policy or opinion of this publication or its editor. All articles submitted for publication are subject to editing.

By submitting content, contributors warrant that the content they submit to us is not obscene, threatening, harassing, libellous, deceptive, fraudulent, and invasive of another's privacy, offensive, defamatory of any person or illegal goods and services advertised within their statutory rights.

We accept no liability in respect of any content submitted by users and published by us or by authorized third parties.

The deadline for inclusion of material in next month's magazine is the **20th** of this month.

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All rates are for insertion in 10 consecutive issues of inSPIRE.

Size	Colour	Approximate size of advert (Width by height) (cm)
Quarter page	£45.00	6 by 8
Half page	£90.00	12 by 8 or 6 by 16
Full page	£180.00	12 by 16

Cover photo: by Christine Acford. This can also be seen on the Gardening Club's 2025 calendar. Available from Peter Prater and Steve Calder.

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Editorial

As I write this, snow is swirling around, and the temperature has dropped to its lowest so far this year. It's certainly seasonal! Naturally at this time of the year our thoughts turn to Christmas and the New Year and the festivities therein.

I am always very struck, nay humbled, by those who give up Christmas to serve others. Yes, the emergency services rightly we thank, but also those amongst us who go to town and city centres to give people less fortunate than us a place of warmth, advice and nourishment for those few days. The milk of human kindness.

Turning to the New Year a new president will be inaugurated on January 20th. There is a high degree of anxiety as to what the new man in the Oval Office will bring to the US and the world. Seen through our eyes, most of us find it hard to believe that such a man with a record of immorality can be the head of the free world. If he is true to his word, and even that is in doubt, we will see Ukraine worse off and the very existence of our planet under threat. A sobering if depressing scenario.

But we have hope, and that, dear reader, is what that new born baby brought to the world over 2000 years ago.

Ed

Fun for all the Family!

There's going to be a new event in Derry Hill and Studley.

On 5th January afternoon there is going to be a Wassail happening, embracing Studley and Derry Hill. Fun and frolics! Say goodbye to the Christmas tree at the Lansdowne Hall and join in the jollity of Wassailing at the new orchard in Studley Gardens. And it's free. Morris dancers and all the fun of saying goodbye to Christmas and welcoming the new apple and plum trees in Studley Gardens. Watch out of up-dates on the Derry Hill and Studley Hub, posters and social media.

Church Contacts CHRIST CHURCH - DERRY HILL

If you wish to discuss arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals or would like a pastoral visit or meeting arranged or need to see a Vicar, then please contact the **Team Administrator**:

Mrs Ann Stiff Tel: 01249 816522 email: enquiries@mardenvale.org.uk Team Office: 30 Church Street, Calne, SN11 0HU The office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 1pm

Church Wardens

Mr Peter Rigby 01225 704356

Mr Ian Liddle 01249 816229

PCC Treasurer (Tr) & Secretary (Sec)

Mr Peter Roycroft (Tr) 01249 660550

Mrs Lucinda Prater (Sec) 07882 469005

FLOODLIGHTING THE SPIRE

This is a lovely thing to do to remember loved ones and to celebrate special anniversaries and birthdays. The Spire is currently lit between 7pm and midnight, though this varies with the time of year. Floodlighting the Spire can be arranged through **Richard Aylen –** <u>inspireeditor@outlook.com</u> 01249 814632

A donation to the church for the cost of the lighting is welcome.

December 2024 Church Services			
Time	Church	Service	
Sunday 1 st Advent Sunday			
8am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion	
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion	
10.00am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Family Service	
6pm	St. Martin's, Bremhill	Benefice Advent	
	Wednesday 4	th	
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion	
	Sunday 8 th Adve	nt 2	
8am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion	
9.30am	St John the Baptist, Foxham	Holy Communion	
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion	
10.45am	Holy Trinity, Quemerford	Morning Praise	
11am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Holy Communion	
3pm	St Mary's, Calne	St Marys School Carols	
6pm	St. Martin's, Bremhill	Holy Communion BCP	
	Wednesday 11	th	
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion	
	Sunday 15 th Adve	ent 3	
8am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion	
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion	
11am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Holy Communion	
3pm	St. Martin's, Bremhill	Nativity – Square / Hall	
3pm	Holy Trinity, Quemerford	Family Service	
	Wednesday 18		
10am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion	
	Thursday 19 th	h	
6pm	St John the Baptist, Foxham	Carols	
7pm	St Mary's, Calne	Blue Christmas	
	Sunday 22 nd Adve	ent 4	
8am	St Mary's, Calne	Holy Communion	
10am	St Mary's, Calne	All Age Morning Praise	
10.45am	Holy Trinity, Quemerford	Carols plus Communion	
10am	St. Martin's, Bremhill	All age Holy Communion	
10.45am	Holy Trinity, Quemerford	Holy Communion	
3pm	St. Peter's Blackland	Carol Service	
4pm	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Carol Service	
6pm	St Mary's, Calne	Carol Service	
6pm	St. Martin's, Bremhill	Carol Service	

December 2024 Church Services(cont'd)			
Tuesday 24 th Christmas Eve			
3pm	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Carols and Crib	
4pm	St Mary's, Calne	Crib Service	
6pm	Bowood Chapel	Carol Service	
9pm	St. Martin's, Bremhill	Midnight Mass	
11pm	St Mary's, Calne	Midnight Mass	
	Wednesday 25 th Chris	tmas Day	
9.30am	St John the Baptist, Foxham	Holy Communion	
9.30am	St. Peter's Blackland	Holy Communion BCP	
10am	St Mary's, Calne Parish Eucharis		
11am	St. Martin's, Bremhill Family Communion		
11am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Family Communion	
	Sunday 29 th Christmas 1		
11am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Benefice Holy Communion	
January 2025 Church Services (Derry Hill only)			
	Sunday 5th		
10.00am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Family Service	
	Sunday 12 th		
11am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Holy Communion	
	Sunday 19 th		
11am	Christ Church, Derry Hill	Holy Communion	
Sunday 26 th			
	Christ Church, Derry Hill	No Service	

Details of the other Church services are available on the Marden Vale Benefice Website (<u>https://www.mardenvale.org.uk/</u>)

Rector's notes for December

Advent is with us again, the season when most of the population begin the final countdown to Christmas. In the Church, too, we're excited about Christmas, but Advent also has the theme of anticipating the second coming of Christ, this time not humbly and obscurely in a stable, but coming one day in glory as the rightful king of the whole world.

In our homes, some of us will be preparing for visitors staying – family members perhaps, coming for Christmas, but not really prepared for till now.

Just before the end of my Duchy of Cornwall farm tenancy in 2015 we had a request from our regional land agent that we entertain our landlord, the then Prince Charles, to tea in our house. It's not the sort of request we could turn down, but it meant we had a lot of tidying and cleaning up to do. You know the story of how members of the Royal Family believe the outside world smells of fresh paint because everywhere they go smells of fresh paint? By the time HRH arrived, our home looked sort of the same, but also very much, well, like it was ready for a royal visit.

Jesus has quite a lot to say in the Bible about being prepared for his return to earth in glory. The challenge is to keep everything about our lives in a state that's pleasing to God; to deal with any metaphorical dirty laundry as it arises, to keep the clutter that gets in the way of our walk with God down to a minimum. Also not to obsess about when Jesus might actually return, but rather to get on with the work of proclaiming the good news of God's love for the world – in words and deeds.

If you knew Jesus was coming tomorrow, or even next month, is there anything you might want to put right in your life? A relationship: an apology, a reconciliation? A message that needs writing? A habit that needs breaking? Some serious praying that needs to be done? Something else you've been putting off that you know you ought to see to?

As we prepare to celebrate the wonder of the first coming of Christ, as we hear once again the extraordinary story of Emmanuel, God with us, coming in our midst as a helpless baby, it's good to remember that when we see Jesus it's going to be as the mighty king of all creation, before whom every knee shall bow. As we hear of the shepherds and wise men kneeling in worship at this the most precious gift from God, may God keep us attentive and ready to receive Jesus again, whenever it happens.

With my prayers, and very best wishes,

Caspar Bush, Team Rector (Caspar.Bush@mardenvale.org.uk)

Cardiac Arrest – 999 & CPR ASAP !

If you see a person in cardiac arrest, call 999 immediately and start CPR. You will be told what to do by the 999 operator while you wait for an ambulance to arrive.



Time is critical and CPR is necessary to maintain an oxygen supply to the brain and other organs until the heart can be restarted by defibrillation shock.

You don't need to be qualified to do CPR or to use a defib, you are trying to save a life!

How to do CPR and Use a Defibrillator

Please take 5 minutes now to scan this code and watch the video:



Heartbeat will be running another awareness/training course in the New Year. In the meantime, have a great Christmas and stay safe.

Julian

Derry Hill and Studley Heartbeat 07769 970401 / julesoliver3@gmail.com



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What's on



This voluntary post could be filled by someone who is not a regular attendee at Christ Church

Calne Neighbourhood Policing Update

Welcome to our latest Neighbourhood Policing update for Derry Hill and surrounding villages. If there is anything you wish for me to add to these updates, or concerns you may have, please do contact me using my Email address: <u>mark.cook@wiltshire.police.uk</u>

Crime and incident updates

On 26/10/2024 at 18:50hrs, a white Citroen Van was sighted by officers in Old Derry Hill. The driver was believed to be texting on his phone at the time. Officers then discovered upon stopping and conferring with the driver he had been disqualified from driving and had no insurance. The driver was reported for the offences.

Meet the team. Rural consultation and security tack stamping dates

The Calne Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) will be out across December in the mobile police station.

Here are a few dates for your diary, but we'll remind you nearer the time as well!

December 9

Cherhill Village Hall Car Park - 10.00am - 12:00pm

Compton Bassett Village Hall Car Park – 1.00pm - 3.00pm

December 10

Foxham Reading Room Car Park- 10.00am - 12.00pm

East Tytherton near to the Moravian Church - 1.00pm - 3.00pm

December 11

Phelps Parade - Christmas Shopping Crime Prevention - 10.00am to 3.00pm

We look forward to seeing you. Feel free to talk to the team about any policing concerns in your area. We will also be offering free tack-stamping for anyone who may require their equine items security marked.

Suspected hare coursing group removed from County

On 29th October, officers from the Rural Crime Team issued a S35 Direction to Leave notice to the occupants of this vehicle in Cherhill which had several males on board with dogs.

There was no evidence that they had been hare coursing, but officers sought authorisation to remove the occupants and the vehicle from the county for a period of 48 hours to prevent offences from being committed. The vehicle was stopped with the help of Calne Police, Dog units, Armed Response and Roads Policing teams.

Calne officers met the Dormouse class at Derry Hill School

On 19th October, Calne officers visited Derry Hill School vesterdav and met the Dormouse class.

They also got to meet PC Leach from one of our Chippenham Response Teams.

I gave a little talk on 'Stranger Danger' lots of great questions

and answers. The children got to look and sit in a response police car and try on some of our spare uniforms.

Halloween

Great to see so many families out trick-or-treating this year in Derry Hill.

Our reports of anti-social behaviour were our lowest on record this year for Calne rural and Calne town beats. It was also great to spend some time of the evening handing out sweets to some of the children seen that evening.

Mark Cook

Calne Neighbourhood Police Team mark.cook@wiltshire.police.uk

PILATES

Suitable for ALL ages and abilities Improve Flexibility, Strength and Muscle Tone

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Lansdowne Hall Derry Hill Wednesday 5.30-6.30pm

Beversbrook Calne Tuesdays 6-7pm

6 WEEK COURSE £60.



Contact: Dena 07736 839000. http://www.dbpilates.co.uk/ Email: denabray10@gmail.com





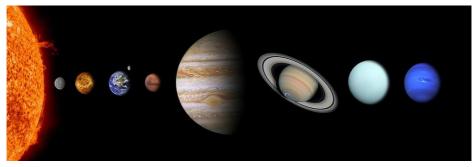
The Sky at Night

With longer nights, this time of the year is great for star gazers as long as they wrap up!

In December Mercury can be seen in the morning from about 15th to the end of the month, rising in the southeast. Gradually it will become so bright that it will be quite visible before sunrise.

Venus will be more visible in the evening showing by the end of December up to four hours after the sun has set.

In January Mars will be in opposition by 16th (when Mars is directly opposite the Sun and the Earth is in between) and even before that,



the Red Planet will be quite observable. In fact, six planets will be observable at the same time in January, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Neptune, Saturn and Uranus. Apparently a very rare occurrence. At the beginning of the month there will be a larger than normal Quadrantids meteor show with up to about 20 meteors an hour. The best day for this is 3rd.

Happy stargazing!

Richard Aylen

Poppy Appeal 2024

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's Poppy Appeal. The total for the village, including the Shop, the School and the Pub was £460.94p. I would especially like to thank my collectors who gave up their time to do the collection. The collection taken at the Remembrance Service for the Legion amounted to £171.50p.

Cathy Liddle Poppy Appeal Organiser

Calne Without Parish Council

What we've been doing in the last month;

The Parish Council has continued to consider and respond to planning applications and requests for Highway improvement works.

A new defibrillator is ready to be installed at the Pewsham Public House. This is a very important project to improve defibrillator coverage in the locality and are proud of our part in this project.

Work on The Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan review is moving along well. You may recall the consultation carried out earlier this year. The plan has now passed through Wiltshire Council and the process of examination. We are now completing the last pieces of work before the plan can go to referendum before it is 'made' and can become part of local planning policy. Keep an eye on the website for updates. www.calnecommunityplan.com

We continue on the countdown to the start of the new 'Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council' This means that next May 25 after the local elections Calne Without Parish Council, will become Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council. This is the biggest change to Parish council structures for many years and we are looking forward to the opportunities these changes can bring to the locality.

A parish council is the voice of the community, they advocate for the wishes of the community within Wiltshire Council and with other groups that they work with. They cannot do that without people standing to be Councillors. This is not as intimidating as it sounds and can be a really rewarding way to have an input into the community.

Next May 2025 local elections in Wiltshire will be held and all seats in the new Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council will be up for election (11 in total) If you think you might be interested in becoming a parish councillor, I would encourage you to come along to a parish council meeting (all Parish council and committee meetings are held in public) to find out more about what parish councils do and how they make decisions. All the dates for Parish Council meetings can be found on our website. Further background info can be found at; www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/becoming-a-councillor.html

Reporting issues

Most months we have the Parish Steward visit us to carry out jobs as required, he can do small jobs associated with the highways. If you

have an issue that you think he might be able to help with then please feel free to email me with photos and details of the concern and we can see if he is able to help.

We regularly receive reports of works required that we pass onto Wiltshire Council for their attention. Did you know that there is a quick and easy way to report items such as potholes and issues with street lighting straight to Wiltshire Council? Search 'my wilts' app and follow the instructions. Once you have set up an account reporting is quick and simple.

As this is the last edition before Christmas all that is left is to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Next Full Council Meeting Dates

Full Council – Monday 9th December 2024 7.30pm, Monday 10th February 2025 7.30pm All council meetings are held at the Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill.

Keeping in Touch

We have many ways that you can keep up to date with the work here at the Parish Council. Our website (www.calnewithout-pc.gov.uk) is kept up to date with meeting dates and associated papers, we use our Facebook page (search Calne Without) for quick updates and news about our work and you can always get in touch directly with the clerk with any questions you may have.

If you need to get in touch with the Parish Council please contact the Parish Clerk <u>clerk@calnewithout-pc.gov.uk</u>

07751802761

Katherine Checchia

Parish Clerk www.calnewithout-pc.gov.uk

Knitting, stitching & craft group.

A group meets weekly, on Fridays 2-4 pm in Christ Church Derry Hill. Bring your crochet, knitting or needlework, all abilities welcome. Share tips, chat and enjoy a tea or coffee, £3. Any gueries contact Christine 817780, Liz 812138 or Marcia 820196



Christmas is nearly here! Our last session this term is December 20th, back again on Friday 3rd January 2025. In the meantime, we have another coaching session with Nancy to look forward to on Friday December 6th. Our Christmas Dinner outing is on 9th December. This year we are going to the Lansdowne Arms. The menu looks great! Thank you, Allie for organising this for us all.



If you would like to come and have a go it is £2 per session, Monday



and Friday at 1.45-2.45 pm, term time only, on the outside multi-pitch next to Landom... to socialise, have fun and keep fit. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all.

Tina

Mobile library visits to Derry Hill

Lansdowne Hall Derry Hill

14.30 - 15.45Tuesday: 10th & 24th December 2024. 7th & 21st January 2025

Kingston House Derry Hill

10.10 - 10.3016th December 2024 & 13th January 2025





Kingston House Activities & Lunch

Monday to Friday 10am - 2pm

Join our team and residents in our charming care home any weekday for a morning of company, fun and interaction, plus a nutritious and delicious lunch shared with friends.

Chair-based exercises, Painting, Singing, Bingo and quizzes, Word games and more.

Our Activities & Lunch mornings are open to anyone 65 and over. Cash donations to support our charitable fund are accepted on the day.

Call us on

01249 815 555

to book your place and do a quick safety pre-assessment.

We cannot wait to meet you!

Kingston House, Lansdowne Crescent, Calne SN11 9NP





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easons Art Class

HAVE FUN AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS

Even if you have never picked up a brush before, we will guide you through to make it easy and fun! On completion of the course you will have 12 pieces of original art to cherish forever. This is an extremely enjoyable



way to develop your creative side, and really enjoy the next few months.

STRICTLY LIMITED PLACES

Our classes are popular, and places are strictly limited to maintain high standards of tuition so hurry... don't miss out!

PLACES LIMITED. PLEASE CALL NOW FOR MORE DETAILS AND A FRIENDLY CHAT.

01249 736 494

Lansdowne Hall in Derry Hill, Calne

20

Derry Hill & Studley Gardening Club

At our November Meeting, the last of the year, we welcomed Harriet Rycroft from her home in the Cotswolds to give her talk 'Potty Time' - tips and ideas for keeping container displays looking good all year round. Harriet has between 500 & 700 pots in her yard at home. After her talk, Harriet gave a demonstration of planting up a pot with plants & bulbs.

Harriet has also written a book called Pots which covers everything you need to know to grow plants in pots all year round.

The Competition Table of an Autumn Arrangement was won by Roberta for her very pretty arrangement presented in a pumpkin.



Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month February to November 7.30pm at Christ Church, Derry Hill. New members welcome.

Date	Speaker	Subject
4/2/25	Ray Broughton	Pests & Diseases
4/3/25	Caroline Sheldrick	A Year in the Cutting Garden
1/4/25	Nicola Hope	Talking Tomatoes
6/5/25	James Allison	The Secrets of Successful Water Gardening
3/6/25	Local Garden visit/Summer Social	ТВС
1/7/25	Nick Morgan	Making the most of your Greenhouse
5/8/25	Robert Harvey	Creating a Downland Garden
2/9/25	Paul Green	Plants of the Season
7/10/25	Joff Elphick	Crayfish on the Lawn & other Gardening Stories
4/11/25	Timothy Walker	In the Not So Bleak Mid-Winter

2025 Programme

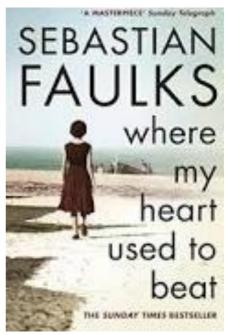
Paula Wheatcroft pdoel@live.co.uk 0783 3755232.

Book Club Review

Sebastian Faulks' 'Where my heart used to beat'.

Where my heart used to beat by Sebastian Faulks is an introspective novel that delves into themes of memory, trauma and the impact of war on the lead character Robert Hendricks. Hendricks. a psychiatrist by profession. becomes the subject of his own analysis when he is contacted by a mysterious man, Alexander Pereira. Pereira invites Hendricks to an island off the coast of France with the lure of information about his late father who died when he was a young boy.

Hendricks reflects on his experiences during World War II, his time in France as a young man, and a deep emotional connection

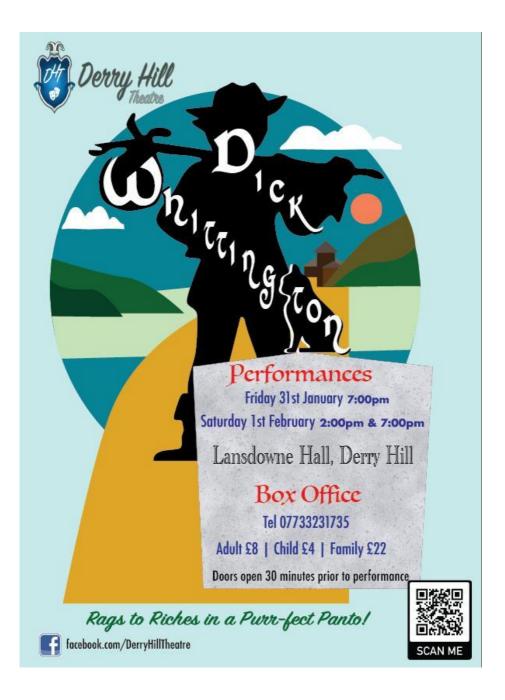


that shaped his life. These reflections reveal his struggle with an unspoken, lingering trauma, and his search for redemption and selfunderstanding.

The novel examines not just the physical scars of combat but the internal, emotional toll that it takes on the soul. There are also strong philosophical undercurrents in the book, especially regarding the nature of love, suffering, and identity. Whilst Hendricks's character is not particularly likeable, his inner turmoil and grappling with his past are relatable and deeply human. His emotional evolution is thoughtfully portrayed, and his story is compelling.

Fans of Faulks' previous works, such as Birdsong, may find this novel an interesting, though more sombre, exploration of similar themes.

Kerry



Rub a Dub Pre-School

Little Pine Tree

I'm a little pine tree As you can see, All the other pine trees Are bigger than me. Maybe when I grow up Then I'll be A great big merry Christmas tree!



Christmas Fayre

The Rub a Dub Committee thoroughly enjoyed attending the recent Christmas Fayre. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make items and sell them on the day.

It was so lovely to see so many members of our community under one roof having lots of Christmas cheer!

Christmas Raffle

The time is getting near for our raffle of the year!

Raffle tickets are now available to purchase from Rub a Dub preschool.

There is a wonderful selection of prizes on offer, the first of which being a grand hamper of generously gifted wine and sorts!

If anyone in the village would be kind enough to donate any further prizes for this year's raffle it really would be greatly appreciated and does make a huge difference. Please email:

rubadubfundraising@gmail.com

Raffle tickets will be drawn after the pre-school Nativity on Thursday 12th December at the Lansdowne Hall.

If you are new to the area and interested in looking around our preschool for your child, please email:

<u>rubadubpreschoolenquiries@gmail.com</u> where we will be happy to help.

The staff and committee at Rub a Dub would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Mothers' Union Prayer & Fellowship Group



We met on Wed 6th November at Christ Church for our last meeting of the year in church. After Jean said the prayers, we finalised the programme for next year and I'm pleased to report it's going to be an interesting and action-packed year. We then handed over to Nan who guided us with how to make a Christmas Star decoration. We had great fun and it proved, yet again, that we are not all gifted with the ability to make lovely things using craft skills. The majority were very good but unfortunately. I must try harder!! It really was a lot of fun though and our thanks to Nan for having such patience. We finished off with a lovely cup of tea and biscuits thanks to Barbara, Christine W and Judi.

In December we are having a meal at The Lansdowne Arms so next meet in Church in February 2025 for the MU Wave of Prayer. That just leaves me, on behalf of the Mothers' Union, to wish all the readers of InSpire a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Barbara M Parry

1st Derry Hill Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

All three sections meet at the village hall on a Monday at 6pm, we enjoy doing a variety of activities each week and we were proud to be part of the Remembrance parade. The focus has now turned to Christmas and the guiding carol service in December and also a visit to the cinema is coming up. The guides are looking forward to their first camp weekend too.



If you are interested in volunteering or if you daughter would like to join us please do get in contact via <u>https://www.girlguiding.org.uk</u>

Lucy, Emma, Erica, Emma and Jess

The Lansdowne Hall

The Lansdowne Hall needs fresh input to promote this exceptional village facility, so please consider joining the team.

The Hall has been open for approaching 25 years and is often very busy. An administrator deals with all enquiries, bookings and invoicing and a cleaner keeps everywhere spic and span.



If you can spare a little time on a voluntary basis to help us maintain our high Hallmark status, please contact:

Richard French 01249 816106.

An exciting development needs some volunteers for a few hours



Volunteers are needed to plant the 10 apple trees and 3 plum trees in the new community orchard in Studley Gardens. Saturday 7th December / Sunday 8th December.

If you would like to help, please contact Sue Deedigan sue.deedigan@calnewithout-pc.gov.uk

Derry Hill & District WI

The Afternoon Tea for members, friends and family was a huge success. The room was beautifully set out ready for the guests to arrive. The food was delicious and enjoyed by all. Well done all those who organised the event and all those who made cakes and sandwiches etc. We received many notes of thanks!

WI had a cake stall at the Gardening Club Christmas Fayre. The event was amazing again this year, so, well done Gardening Club. Our stall was very busy and sold out once again! Derry Hill does seem to love cake so thank you to all those who bought some.









We do not have a meeting in December as the date clashes with Christmas, so

our WI goes out for Christmas Dinner instead. This year we will be at La Flambe on December 4th. We are all looking forward to celebrating together. It seems to have come round so quickly.

about Feng Shui – Tips & Tricks. Should be very interesting.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Lansdowne Hall, 7.30pm. If you are interested, please email our secretary, Liz derryhillsec@wiltshirewi.org

Derry Hill & District WI would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tina

Christ Church Derry Hill-Christmas Concert by MASK

Monday 16th December 2024 At 7.30pm

An evening of Christmas songs and Carols

Refreshments and raffle

Donations to Christ Church.

All welcome

The Christmas story in Derry Hill and Studley

This is a short journey through Christmas time in Derry Hill and Studley. We start this walk-through in 1838 just before the Golden Gates and Christ Church were built. We cover 185 years of history, during which time the Crimean War. the South African War, WW1 and WW2 were all witness to huge political and social change across the world. Despite all of this, Christmas time has remained a special time in our village. In 1838 we hear a band playing in front of the Lansdowne Arms and end this journey in 2023



with a band playing in front of the Lansdowne Hall.

1838 – "The Great Wiltshire Pudding, which has excited so much attention in the neighbourhood of Derry Hill, was yesterday distributed to the poor children (upwards of 200 in number). Seats were provided for them in front of the Lansdowne Arms and a band playing during this time. Notwithstanding the number of persons to witness this novelty was upwards of 3,000, the grated order and decorum was observed and after the children had been supplied, the remainder of the pudding was given to the spectators. The pudding weighed, before it was boiled, 340 pounds – and it was boiling from 10 am on Sunday morning to 11am on Wednesday morning".

1866 – On the 25th December 1866, 72 children from the Derry Hill School paid their annual visit to Bowood House to receive from the Marchioness of Lansdowne the following articles of cloth. The girls – frocks, bonnets, stockings, cloaks, tippets and mittens. The boys – stockings, waistcoats, smock frocks and neckties. On New Year's Day these children proceed to Bowood House and regaled themselves abundantly on beef, mutton and all appendages thereto. At this dinner the ladies and gentlemen of the house, as well as the tutors become the servants and attend with utmost diligence to all their little wants.

At Christmas Lord and Lady Lansdowne gave away to widows, large families and the old large quantities of beef, bread, rice, soup and clothing. They also gave coal to those who stand in the greatest need.

1867 – "Christ Church has been tastefully decorated this season by members and friends in the parish which gives it an air of cheerfulness and aptly reminds the congregation of the festive season. There were no sermons on Christmas Day, but the whole was decoration, adoration and praise. On the Thursday before Christmas the church choir (about 40 in number) were invited by the vicar to a good supper and evening's entertainment".

1910 – A successful Christmas dance was held at the Institute (Old Village Hall) on Tuesday. A good number of the village were present. The room was tastefully decorated by the Committee. Evergreens of all descriptions were used, kindly given by Mr. Brown of Bowood. The bunting festooned across the room had a pretty affect. Dancing was kept up until after two to the excellent piano, violin and cornet.

1936 – Christmas Carols at Bowood and Derry Hill. The choir, accompanied by the vicar (the Rev, Pendennis Hayes) visited Bowood House and sang carols on Christmas Eve. The services on Christmas Day comprised of four celebrations of the Holy Communion – matins at 11 o'clock and the evening at 4 pm. The collections made were for the Waifs and Strays Society. The church was beautifully decorated with holly, wreaths and sprays of pink chrysanthemums. In the children's corner was a crib and outside a bunch of red roses. The decorators were Mrs Hayes, Mrs Cowley, Mrs Pearce, Mrs Bradfield, Mrs Tysoe, Miss Mountjoy and Miss Short.

1938 – A Nativity Play at Christ Church. On Friday evening the Cuddeson Nativity Play was given under the management of Mrs Palmer assisted by Mrs Holman. The cast was Miss G Beint (the Blessed Virgin Mary), Mr Wood (Joseph), The Rev Palmer (the High Priest). Note that the Cuddeson was Nativity Play suitable for all ages and uses the tune of "The 12 days of Christmas" to tell the Christmas story.

– In response to the appeal of the Vicar (Rev Basil Palmer) for comforts for the men of HMS Dragon, a parcel has been despatched including sweets and cigarettes from Westonbirt School (who were resident in Bowood House) and a contribution of garments from the Girl Guides. The vicar also received donations amounting to £5 and the whist drive organised by Mrs Palmer, Miss Westmore and Mirs Cowley.

– A Christmas party was held at the Old Village Hall. Games and competitions were organised by Miss Keevil and Miss Dennis. Those present were Lady Walter Hervey of Rumsey House. A knitting competition was won by Mrs Thompsett. Winners of games were Mrs Strange, Mrs Wheeler and Mrs Hickman. Mrs Hitchcock made a Christmas cake and tea was served by Mrs Townsend.

– Derry Hill residents Mrs Judith Eckersley and Mrs Joan McFaull have responded to the call for people to 'adopt' a Vietnamese family who were temporarily living in Devizes. Mrs McFaull said, "we bring the family into our homes one day a week and the children get on like a house on fire." The family were taken to the Derry Hill church's Christmas Crib Service. Mrs McFaull said, "it has not taken as long to get to know each other and our reward is the satisfaction of seeing that this family know there are people in this world that do care about their wellbeing."

– The Derry Hill and Studley Christmas Lights Switch-on was held at the Lansdowne Hall. The Community Committee organised the village Christmas tree lights switch on, carol singing, a brass band, street food and stalls. At the same time the village illuminated the Advent Window Trail – 24 houses across Derry Hill and Studley hosting a Christmas theme illuminated window, and the church spire was lit.

Steve Calder



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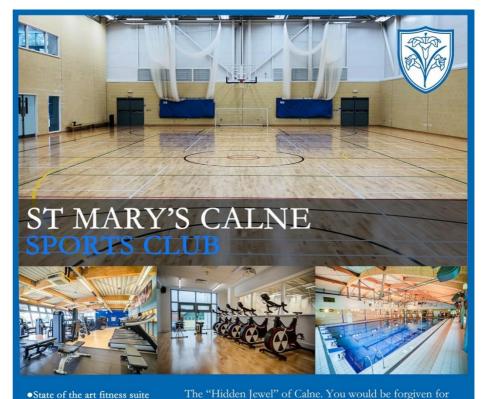
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ACROSS

- 1 Wise Man's gift(4)
- 3 Santa's helpers(5)
- 7 Information store(8)
- 8 Famous birthplace(9)
- 9 Central part(4)
- 10 New Year
 - pyrotechnics(9)
 - 11 Tree decoration(6)

12 New year's last two digits(6-4)13 First month(7)

DOWN

December 2024 / January

2025 Crossword

- 2 Fate(7)
- 4 Santa's transport(6)
- 5 Christmas song(5)
- 6 New year promise((10)





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Thanks, as ever, for your continued support, **Sarah, Ffion and the rest of the team** email : friends@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk





EARLY BIRD SEASON TICKETS



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Wellbeing notes

Wishing you a mindful Christmas

Two women were talking in the library. "I have to confess," said one, "that Christmas is not my favourite time of year." "Same!" said the other. "It's just too busy, isn't it? I'll be worn out by the 25th."

Since I happen to be one of the many who try a bit too hard to get everything 'right' in the run-up to Christmas, this year I'm choosing to be less stressed and more mindful, with the following gentle strategies.



Use your senses

Warming aromas of orange and cinnamon. The crackle of paper as you wrap your gifts. Experiencing the world through your senses is the best way to inhabit each moment of your life. Everything you do in this state of sensory awareness is enhanced. A gift prepared mindfully can bring the recipient a sense of calm which can be at least as important as any monetary value.

Practise gratitude

Savour the segments of a tangerine and truly take in nature's abundance. Look around you at the next social gathering, whatever it may be, and enjoy the miracle of other beings. Each person is special when viewed through non-judgemental eyes. When you receive a present, appreciate above all the love behind it.

Choose simplicity

In a nutshell, give yourself ample time to do a little less. An uncomplicated meal of natural ingredients can taste nicer than complex dishes. And a few branches brought in and decorated simply can bring you and your loved ones that elusive thing: a childlike pleasure in Christmas.

Suzanne Askham



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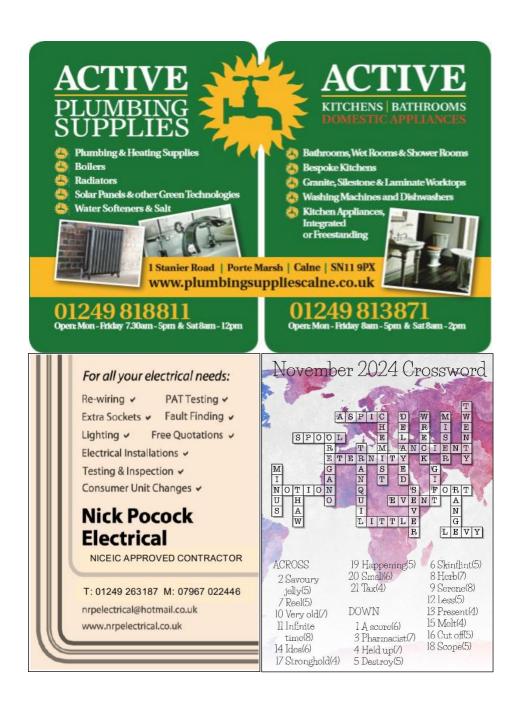


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