



HOP CHURCHES NEWS



DECEMBER 2022

The Newsletter for the Parishes of
Ashperton | Bosbury | Canon Frome
Munsley | Stretton Grandison
Stoke Edith | Tarrington | Yarkhill





WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME ALL OF THOSE IN OUR
COMMUNITIES WHO WISH TO MARK LIFE EVENTS IN ANY OF
OUR EIGHT HOP CHURCHES

To enquire about baptisms, weddings or funerals
please contact Revd Mandy Williams
07780 586846 or mandy.williams@hopchurches.org.uk

Welcome to the trial issue of an enlarged online edition of the newsletter. The printed copy is limited to 36 pages by reason of printing costs but there is no limitation on the number of pages in the online version. Therefore in this version it has been possible to reinstate the 'recipe'; include a seasonal cartoon; add a short article on the Hereford and Gloucester Canal, which could not be included in the print version due to the number of notices; and add a number of notices etc from charities and public services. I hope you find this a more comprehensive newsletter and, if so, that you are able to persuade others to request inclusion in the circulation list.



This month's saint is, of course, Saint Nicholas. Feast Day 5/6 December in Western Christianity; 19 December in Eastern Christianity (main feast day – Saint Nicholas Day)

The cover illustration is a full-length icon of Saint Nicholas by Jaroslav Čermák, showing him with a halo, dressed in clerical garb, and holding a book of the scriptures in his left hand while making the hand gesture for the sign of the cross with his right.

Rectors Ramblings – December 2022

As I write this in mid-November, Christmas Adverts have begun to appear on our televisions. It is interesting to observe how these seasonal adverts adapt and change to the circumstances of their audience. As we near the end of 2022 and Christmas draws ever nearer, so the current cost of living crisis deepens, and many are asking themselves what the future holds and how they might cope.

The seasonal adverts have a subtle difference, an emphasis not on extravagance and gift giving, but of spending quality time together. The commentators are noting that the big retailers are attempting to point us to the simpler things, like a homemade card and gifts as they sow the seeds that any spare cash we do have should be spent with them. Whilst we might all raise an eyebrow at the dubious sincerity of such advertising campaigns, a simpler celebration of Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to draw attention to the true meaning of Christmas and put Christ back at the heart of our Christmas celebrations.

With money tight and anxiety about the perilous state of our climate and the war in Ukraine that threatens all our peace, now is the time when the incarnational message of Christmas is the hope that we have to offer to a world in need. Our message is that through the extravagant gift of God, we can celebrate a Saviour who was born in a humble stable, with no trappings of wealth. We can proclaim the message of the angels that this Saviour is the Prince of Peace who brings a hope, a freedom and a joy that the world cannot give.

Perhaps we are all tightening our belts this Christmas and bracing ourselves for a few challenging years of uncertainty ahead. But what we can proclaim this year is that the unconditional love of God is freely given and can be glimpsed in coming together to worship God in the wonderful traditions that have been handed down to us by our forebears. Join us this Christmas to celebrate in music and carols, in fellowship and friendship in our parish churches that have stood steadfast throughout the centuries, offering hope in trauma, peace in the storm and joy in community. Most importantly don't come alone. As you make your plans to join in the events in your church this Christmas, take time to invite friends and neighbours to join you in a humble but joyful celebration of what really matters. It might just be the best Christmas present you will give this year. Blessings and joy for the Christmas season.

Mandy

07780 586846 mandy.williams@hopchurches.org.uk

Ordination Service

We are delighted to welcome Bishop Richard Jackson to the Hop Churches Benefice for the Ordination of Revd. Linde Melhuish as Priest.

The service will take place in

**Bosbury Church on
Sunday 15th January at 4pm**

This will be the only service in the Benefice on this Sunday so that all our benefice congregations can celebrate this special occasion together. All welcome



BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

We will be meeting for the final service of the year at Yarkhill, on Thursday, 1st December at 6pm.

Do come and join us for this time of peaceful reflection and prayer – perfect for the Advent season and busy run-up to Christmas!

Please note we will not be holding this service in January and February but will be starting again at Ashperton in March.

Linde

Curate's Colloquy

Sunday, January 15th will be a special day for me as I am going to be priested by Bishop Richard at 4pm at Holy Trinity, Bosbury. It would be even more special if you can join me in celebrating this event. Usually, one is a deacon for a year, but in acknowledgement of my many years spent as a Reader, I am being fast-tracked! There's plenty to do in preparation for this so I am going to be most grateful for the three day retreat I shall have at Holland House, near Pershore in Worcestershire just before the service. I am hoping that mid January will not be snowy, picturesque though that might look in the photos. Recently, I did have a strange and disconcerting nightmare where the Bishop, in full regalia, was trying to ski from Hereford to Bosbury – I can only pray it was not prophetic! One of the things I had not anticipated was taking part in a short video to appear on YouTube, some time before the end of this year. As a member of the pioneering Caleb stream, the Churches Revitalisation Trust asked me to take part in a video interview that would be used as promotional material for the course. The day of filming arrived and was much more involved than I could have imagined, especially as the interviewer/photographer was something of a perfectionist. He would score himself out of 10 on each section: 9/10 was not quite good enough so off we would go again to get it exactly right! Even before the filming began, it took at least two hours to set everything up at home – the light, colour, position has to be just right before the interview could commence. Then there were the outdoor shots, with my Labradors, Paddy and Bentley, making an appearance, after which my ducks waddled across the grass to be included. The final scenes were filmed both inside and outside the church at Munsley, which looked so pretty with some of the harvest decorations still on show. I gather the film clip will only be about four minutes long but it certainly took nearly a day's filming, dodging rain showers and gusts of wind. There was a wonderful moment when a rainbow suddenly appeared behind the church but alas, it faded before the camera could film it effectively. No doubt it will take some time to edit all of the material to the required length – but I shall let you know when it appears...

Linde

Not Linde's dream but Polish priests taking part in the Pope John Paul II skiing competition in Wisla Poland.



DECEMBER SERVICES

December 2022	4 th December 2 nd of Advent	11 th December 3 rd of Advent	18 th December 4 th of Advent	24 th December Christmas Eve	25 th December Christmas Day
Ashperton	Joint service with Stretton Grandison	9:30 BCP Parish Communion	2:30pm Carol Service		9:30 Christmas Communion
Bosbury	6pm Evensong	11:00 Parish Communion	10:30 Morning Worship	4pm Crib Service with baptism 11:30pm Midnight Communion	10:00 Christmas Praise
Canon Frome					11:00 Christmas Praise
Munsley		9:30 Celebration of Advent/Christmas			9:30 Christmas Communion
Stoke Edith	Joint service with Yarkhill		Joint service with Yarkhill		Join with Yarkhill
Stretton Grandison	9:30 BCP Parish Communion (Joined by Ashperton)			4pm Crib Service	Join with Ashperton
Tarrington	9:30 CW Parish Communion	9:30 CW Parish Communion	9:30 CW Parish Communion 6pm Carol Service	4pm Crib Service 11:30pm Midnight Communion	
Yarkhill	11:00 CW Parish Communion (Joined by Stoke Edith)		4pm Christingle		11:00 Christmas Communion
Zoom	9:30 - Contact jjoy-wright@btinternet.com for log in details				

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

We will be meeting for the final service of the year at Yarkhill, on Thursday, 1st December at 6pm. Do come and join us for this time of peaceful reflection and prayer – perfect for the Advent season and busy run-up to Christmas! Please note we will not be holding this service in January and February but will be starting again at Ashperton in March. Linde

Carol-Ann Duffy is a Scottish poet and playwright. She is a professor of contemporary poetry at Manchester Metropolitan University and was appointed Poet Laureate in May 2009, deciding to resign in 2019. I've always enjoyed teaching her poetry and have chosen this one, written in 2005, as like the poet, my birthday is also in December! I hope you enjoy its effective imagery as much as I do.

Linde

December

The year dwindles and glows
to December's red jewel,
my birth month.

The sky blushes,
and lays its cheek
on the sparkling fields.

Then dusk swaddles the cattle,
their silhouettes
simple as faith.

These nights are gifts,
our hands unwrapping the darkness
to see what we have.

The train rushes, ecstatic,
to where you are,
my bright star.



TREE OF LIGHTS

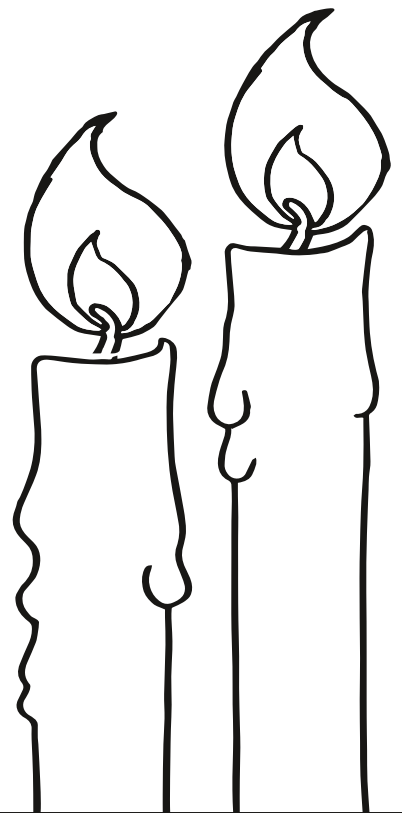
Remember a loved one this
Christmas Season, sponsor
a light in their memory.

Sunday 4th December at 5.00 pm

Contact:

Liz Clutterbuck (01531 640415),
Angie Clarke (01531 649828)
or Lizzie Cooke (01531 640712)
to reserve a light before
November 30th and we will be
able to record the names of your
loved ones.

Any profit will be shared between
the Bosbury Parish Hall and the
Church.



Last month the newsletter included an article on the railway line passing through the Hop Parishes. In this edition (online version only) we have an article on an earlier transport link.

The first plans for a canal between Hereford and Gloucester were made by Robert Whitworth, one of James Brindley's pupils, in 1777. The route was part of a grander plan to link Stourport on Severn and Leominster as well. Twelve years later, Richard Hall submitted plans for a canal via Ledbury. In March 1790, the promoters decided to submit the plans to Parliament. Josiah Clowes, an engineer who had previous experience of working on the Chester Canal and who had worked with Whitworth on the Thames and Severn Canal, was to be the engineer. It appears that he re-surveyed the route, and recommended a change, so that it passed through Ledbury. A branch would be built to Newent where there were minor coalfields, and the canal would be suitable for boats 70 by 8 feet (21.3 by 2.4 m), capable of carrying 35 tons. The estimated cost was £70,000, and it was expected to carry 33,203 tons per year, generating £9,582 in revenue. Some of the promoters began to think that improving the River Wye might be a better option, but the announcement of new seams of coal at Newent resulted in a decision to obtain an Act of Parliament, which was granted in April 1791.

Hugh Henshall, who was the brother-in-law of James Brindley, was asked to re-survey the route in 1792, and recommended a diversion to Newent. This route required a tunnel at Oxenhall, and another act of parliament was obtained in 1793 to sanction the new route. Josiah Clowes died in 1795, and was succeeded as engineer by Robert Whitworth. By late 1795, the initial section was open to Newent, but the tunnel was causing major problems.

In order to build the tunnel, twenty shafts were sunk along its route, so that there could be multiple working faces. However, there were considerable difficulties caused by the volume of water entering the shafts. Horse-powered pumps proved inadequate, and eventually steam-powered pumps were employed, but this added to the cost, and the tunnel was a large factor in the failure to complete the canal.

The canal was opened to within one mile of Ledbury in 1798, but stopped there as the cost had far exceeded the estimates. The Coal Branch to the mines at Newent was never a success, as the coal was of very poor quality, and the branch fell into disuse very quickly. The price of coal in the region dropped from 24 shillings (£1.20) per ton to 13/6 (68p) but the coal was a good quality product which travelled up the canal from the River Severn.[6] Ledbury remained the terminus for another forty years, although a short extension to enable coal to be delivered to the Ledbury gas works was completed in 1832.

Second Phase

In 1827, Stephen Ballard became the new clerk of the company, and produced a report on how to complete the canal in 1829.[7] In 1838, he proposed a new route for the final section, but the engineer James Walker advised against it, and so in May 1839, a new Act of Parliament was obtained, allowing the company to raise the money to complete the canal.[8] Work started on 17 November.[9] A feeder from the River Frome to the summit level was completed in August 1842, and the canal opened in stages as it was completed, with extensions to Canon Frome wharf in January 1843, Whithington wharf in February 1844, and finally to Hereford basin on 22 May 1845.

As with the first phase, it was the tunnel construction which caused the most problems, and Ashperton tunnel, although only 400 yards (370 m) long, was affected by water flooding the work faces and by unstable rock, resulting in the need to construct a brick and stone lining. Again, costs escalated well beyond the original estimates.

Operation

The canal had cost far more to build than was originally planned. The whole canal had been estimated at £69,997 by Josiah Clowes in 1790, but the section to Ledbury had cost in excess of £104,000. Stephen Ballard had estimated the cost of the second phase at £53,000, but the final cost had been £141,436. With little increase in trade from the longer canal, the company tried to sell it to a railway company almost immediately, but were unsuccessful, and so tried to boost trade.

Traffic started to increase, to the extent that a timetable for the transit of the Oxenhall tunnel had to be introduced in 1849. This was not always successful, as the Hereford Times carried articles in May 1851 about an incident in which boats travelling in opposite directions had met in the middle, and neither would give way. There was deadlock for a period of 58 hours.

Decline and Closure

In 1858, the canal carried 47,560 tons of goods, and generated an income of £7,061 in 1860, but some of this was derived from the carriage of materials to build railways in the area. On 17 January 1862, less than 17 years after the opening to Hereford, the canal was leased to the Great Western and West Midland Railway, with a view to converting it to a railway. This did not take place immediately, but on 30 June 1881, half of the canal was closed, and sections of it were used for the course of the Ledbury and Gloucester Railway. The Hereford to Ledbury section remained open, but gradually became disused. The Canal Company continued to receive rent from the Great Western Railway, which it distributed to its shareholders as dividends, and was not formally wound up until the railways were nationalised in 1948.



St Nicholas aka Santa Claus

Santa Claus, also known as Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Kris Kringle, or simply Santa, is a legendary character originating in Western Christian culture who is said to bring children gifts during the late evening and overnight hours on Christmas Eve of toys and candy or coal or nothing, depending on whether they are "naughty or nice". He supposedly accomplishes this with the aid of Christmas elves, who make the toys in his workshop, often said to be at the North Pole, and flying reindeer who pull his sleigh through the air. Of course if you don't believe you will get no presents

The modern character of Santa is based on folklore traditions surrounding Saint Nicholas, the English figure of Father Christmas and the Dutch figure of Sinterklaas.

Saint Nicholas of Myra (traditionally 15 March 270 – 6 December 343) also known as Nicholas of Bari, was an early Christian bishop of Greek descent from the maritime city of Myra in Asia Minor (Greek: Μύρα; modern-day Demre, Turkey) during the time of the Roman Empire. Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as Nicholas the Wonderworker. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, and students in various cities and countries around Europe. His reputation evolved among the pious, as was common for early Christian saints, and his legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to the traditional model of Santa Claus ("Saint Nick") through Sinterklaas.

Very little is known about the historical Saint Nicholas. The earliest accounts of his life were written centuries after his death and contain many legendary elaborations. He is said to have been born in the Greek seaport of Patara, Lycia in Asia Minor to wealthy Christian parent. In one of the earliest attested and most famous incidents from his life, he is said to have rescued three girls from being forced into prostitution by dropping a sack of gold coins through the window of their house each night for three nights so their father could pay a dowry for each of them. Other early stories tell of him calming a storm at sea, saving three innocent soldiers from wrongful execution, and chopping down a tree possessed by a demon. In his youth, he is said to have made a pilgrimage to Egypt and Palestine. Shortly after his return, he became Bishop of Myra. He was later cast into prison during the persecution of Diocletian, but was released after the accession of Constantine. An early list makes him an attendee at the First Council of Nicaea in 325, but he is never mentioned in any writings by people who were at the council. Late, unsubstantiated legends claim that he was temporarily defrocked and imprisoned during the council for slapping the heretic Arius. Another famous late legend tells how he resurrected three children, who had been murdered and pickled in brine by a butcher planning to sell them as pork during a famine.

Fewer than 200 years after Nicholas's death, the St. Nicholas Church was built in Myra under the orders of Theodosius II over the site of the church where he had served as bishop, and his remains were moved to a sarcophagus in that church. In 1087, while the Greek Christian inhabitants of the region were subjugated by the newly arrived Muslim Seljuk Turks, and soon after their church was declared to be in schism by the Catholic church, a group of merchants from the Italian city of Bari removed the major bones of Nicholas's skeleton from his sarcophagus in the church without authorization and brought them to their hometown, where they are now enshrined in the Basilica di San Nicola. The remaining bone fragments from the sarcophagus were later removed by Venetian sailors and taken to Venice during the First Crusade.

Very little at all is known about Saint Nicholas's historical life. Any writings Nicholas himself may have produced have been lost and he is not mentioned by any contemporary chroniclers. This is not surprising, since Nicholas lived during a turbulent time in Roman history. Furthermore, all written records were kept on papyrus or parchment, which were less durable than modern paper, and texts needed to be periodically recopied by hand onto new material in order to be preserved. The earliest mentions of Saint Nicholas indicate that, by the sixth century, his cult was already well-established. Less than two hundred years after Saint Nicholas's probable death, the Eastern Roman Emperor Theodosius II (ruled 401–450) ordered the building of the Church of Saint Nicholas in Myra, which thereby preserves an early mention of his name. The Byzantine historian Procopius also mentions that the Emperor Justinian I (ruled 527–565) renovated churches in Constantinople dedicated to Saint Nicholas and Saint Priscus, which may have originally been built as early as c. 490.

Nicholas's name also occurs as "Nicholas of Myra of Lycia" on the tenth line of a list of attendees at the Council of Nicaea recorded by the historian Theodoret in the *Historiae Ecclesiasticae Tripartitae Epitome*, written sometime between 510 and 515. A single, offhand mention of Nicholas of Myra also occurs in the biography of another saint, Saint Nicholas of Sion, who apparently took the name "Nicholas" to honor him. The *Life of Saint Nicholas of Sion*, written around 250 years after Nicholas of Myra's death, briefly mentions Nicholas of Sion visiting Nicholas's tomb to pay homage to him. According to Jeremy Seal, the fact that Nicholas had a tomb that could be visited serves as the almost solitary definitive proof that he was a real historical figure.

In his treatise *De statu animarum post mortem* (written c. 583), the theologian Eustratius of Constantinople cites Saint Nicholas of Myra's miracle of the three counts as evidence that souls may work independent from the body. Eustratius credits a lost *Life of Saint Nicholas* as his source. Nearly all the sources Eustratius references date from the late fourth century to early fifth century, indicating the *Life of Saint Nicholas* to which he refers was probably written during this time period, shortly after Nicholas's death. The earliest complete account of Nicholas's life that has survived to the present is a *Life of Saint Nicholas*, written in the early ninth century by Michael the Archimandrite (814–842), nearly 500 years after Nicholas's probable death.

Despite its extremely late date, Michael the Archimandrite's *Life of Saint Nicholas* is believed to heavily rely on older written sources and oral traditions. The identity and reliability of these sources, however, remains uncertain. Catholic historian D. L. Cann and medievalist Charles W. Jones both consider Michael the Archimandrite's *Life* the only account of Saint Nicholas that is likely to contain any historical truth. Jona Lendering, a Dutch historian of classical antiquity, notes that Michael the Archimandrite's *Life* does not contain a "conversion narrative", which was unusual for saints' lives of the period when it was written. He therefore argues that it is possible Michael the Archimandrite may have been relying on a source written before conversion narratives became popular, which would be a positive indication of that source's reliability. He also notes, however, that many of the stories recounted by Michael the Archimandrite closely resemble stories told about the first-century AD Neopythagorean philosopher Apollonius of Tyana in the *Life of Apollonius of Tyana*, an eight-volume biography of him written in the early third century by the Greek writer Philostratus. Christian storytellers were known to adapt older pagan legends and attribute them to Christian saints. Because Apollonius's hometown of Tyana was not far from Myra, Lendering contends that many popular stories about Apollonius may have become attached to Saint Nicholas.



Illustration of Saint Nicholas resurrecting the three butchered children from the ***Grandes Heures d'Anne de Bretagne*** (created between 1503 and 1508)

MUSIC AT BOSBURY 2022-2023

Sunday November 27th at 7pm

In the Stillness

An Advent Meditation of words and music sung by Refugium Chamber Choir.
Free entry; retiring collection in aid of Ledbury Food Bank and church funds.
Refreshments available; donations invited.

Thursday December 15th at 7.15pm

Please note change of date

Ledbury Community Brass Band

Christmas Concert - ***see opposite***

A programme of seasonal music and Carols to sing.

Tickets £10 from 01531 670634 or on the door.

In aid of St Michael's Hospice and church funds.

Seasonal refreshments available; donations invited.

Advance Notice for 2023

Friday January 27th at 7pm

Mozart Birthday Concert

Saturday March 4th at 7pm

Alive and Brel

The highly popular cabaret revue of songs by Jacques Brel returns to Bosbury
Parish Hall

Saturday April 1st

Hereford Chamber Choir

5pm Lenten Choral Evensong

7pm Concert

Friday August 4th at 7pm

The Rundle Ensemble

Chamber music for oboe, violin, cello and piano

Saturday October 21st at 7.30pm (Apple Day)

Folk Evening

presented by "Folk at the Fold"

For more details please contact Esther Kay 01531 670634

Ledbury Community Brass Band Christmas Concert

Thursday December 15th at 7.15 pm in Bosbury Church(HR8 1QT on the B4220)

What could be more Christmassy than Christmas music played by a brass band? Enjoy an evening of festive music and join in with the carols as Ledbury Community Brass Band, directed by Jacob Ashworth. Ledbury Band was formed ten years ago, and plays at events all around the local area, including Ledbury's Remembrance Sunday, the Christmas lights switch-on and the Ledbury town carol service.

The band was able to keep going through COVID thanks to the internet. Since restarting face to face rehearsals last year the band has gained a number of players and is going from strength to strength. New members are always welcome.

Jacob Ashworth was appointed as the band's Musical Director in 2019. He is a conductor, choir leader and composer who has won several prestigious competitions.

Tickets for the concert are £10 (Children under 16 free).

All proceeds are to be divided between St Michael's Hospice and church funds.

Interval drinks and seasonal nibbles will be served, with donations invited.

For more information please contact Esther Kay 01531 670634.



Cheaper than a whole turkey you could use turkey steaks in this alternative Christmas Dinner from **BBC good food**.



Christmas dinner wellington

Ingredients

1 tbsp oil
1 onion, finely chopped
6 chicken breasts
400g sausagemeat
small bunch winter herbs (we used rosemary, thyme and sage), chopped
100g fresh breadcrumbs
10 slices prosciutto or parma ham
250g jar cranberry sauce
2 x 500g blocks all-butter puff pastry
plain flour, for rolling
1 egg, plus 1 yolk
roast potatoes, vegetables and gravy, to serve (optional)

Method

STEP 1

Heat the oil in a pan. Add the onion and cook for 8-10 mins until soft. Tip into a bowl and leave to cool.

STEP 2

Cover a chopping board with cling film and place a chicken breast on top. Cover the chicken with more cling film. Use a rolling pin to gently bash the thicker part of the chicken until the whole chicken breast is an even thickness of about ½cm. Repeat with the remaining breasts.

STEP 3

Mix the sausagemeat, herbs and breadcrumbs into the cooled onions. On your worktop, make a double layer of cling film, about 30 x 40cm in size. Lay the prosciutto on top, covering as much of the

cling film's surface area as possible. Top with the chicken breasts, placing them to fit together (cut into smaller pieces if you need to) and arranging them to completely cover the prosciutto. Season the chicken.

STEP 4

Cover the chicken with the sausagemeat mixture, spreading it right to the edges. Stir the cranberry sauce to loosen it, then spread over the sausagemeat. Roll the chicken up tightly from one of the longer sides (using the cling film to help you but keeping the cling film on the outside), encasing the fillings in a spiral inside. The prosciutto should be the outermost layer. Wrap the roulade in a large sheet of cling film and twist at the ends to seal, then freeze for 30 mins.

STEP 5

On a floured surface, roll out one block of pastry to the thickness of a £1 coin. Place on a baking tray lined with parchment. Unwrap the chicken roulade and place on top of the pastry. Trim the pastry to a rectangle, leaving 2-3cm all the way around the base of the roulade. Save the off-cuts for decorating the top.

STEP 6

Roll out the second piece of pastry to the same thickness as the first. Whisk together the egg and extra yolk and brush a little around the edge of the

pastry base. Drape the second piece of pastry over the roulade, moulding it tightly around the meat and pushing out any air pockets. Trim off any excess pastry, leaving a border of about 2cm.

STEP 7

Crimp the border with your thumb and forefingers, or use a fork to press around the edge to seal (flour the fork if the pastry begins to stick). Brush the wellington all over with the egg wash. Use the reserved pastry off-cuts to decorate the wellington as you like, or score through the top layer with a sharp knife. Cover and chill for at least 1 hr, or for up to 48 hrs. Can be frozen at this stage for up to two months (defrost in the fridge before cooking). When you're ready to cook, heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.

STEP 8

If you have any egg wash left over, brush the wellington with a little more just before baking. Cook for 1 hr 15 mins until the pastry is golden and crisp. If you've previously frozen the wellington, make sure it's cooked through by poking a sharp knife into the centre and checking the tip comes out very hot. Serve with mash or roast potatoes, veg and gravy, if you like. Chicken is much juicier than beef, so have some kitchen paper to hand ready for when you cut into the wellington.

BOSBURY WI

Meetings at Bosbury Parish Hall at 7.30pm : 2nd Thursday of the month*

DECEMBER 8th Festive themed evening with 'Sounds Familiar'

JANUARY 2023 * NO MEETING (Winter Break)

FEBRUARY 9th Resolution Discussion & Beetle Drive

Bosbury WI welcomes all women, any age or any background
Interested in joining? Do come along for a taster.

**If you would like further information about Bosbury WI,
 please contact the Secretary on 01531 641982**



Trumpet Agricultural Society

Christmas

Tractor & Car Run

10th December 2022

£20.00 ENTRY

In Aid of Hereford Intensive Care Unit

Starting from: Baddy Marsh, Lower Eggleton

Registration from: 2:45pm

Leaving: 4:00pm



Fish & Chip Van serving food afterwards

All Tractors and vehicles must be insured and roadworthy

Feeling overwhelmed by the energy crisis? Support is available

Funded by Herefordshire Council, Keep Herefordshire Warm is here to help.

For residents across the county, this winter will be a time of considerable stress and anxiety. With rising energy costs and the cost of living on everyone's mind, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. However, we have support available to help you deal with the crisis.

Keep Herefordshire Warm's adviceline is staffed by a team of expert advisors, who are trained to provide fantastic advice and to listen with a confidential and impartial ear. They can offer advice on a range of energy subjects, and if they can't answer your question there and then, they'll always get back to you. **Call for free on 0800 677 1432, Monday to Friday, 9-5pm.**

If you need some extra support to get back in control of your energy, that's where our Energy Advocates come in. They can help you if your relationship with your supplier has broken down, you're managing a large energy debt, or need to access emergency support.

Keep Herefordshire Warm also administer funding schemes aimed at improving home energy efficiency, saving costs and energy now and in the long term. Subject to eligibility, funding is available for a wide range of measures, including insulation, high heat retention storage heaters, solar panels and air source heat pumps.

Call the adviceline on 0800 677 1432 or visit [keepherefordshirewarm.co.uk](https://www.KeepHerefordshireWarm.co.uk) to find out more.

St. John the Baptist Church Yarkhill

Christmas Services



SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER

4.00pm

CHRISTINGLE

With refreshments

THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER

6.30pm

CAROL SERVICE

With refreshments



SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY

11.00am

HOLY COMMUNION





“Brian and Charles” Cert PG - 2022

on Friday 16th December 2022



Bosbury Parish Hall at 7.30p

A story of friendship - A comedy - starring David Earl as Brian and Chris Hayward as Charles.

Inventor Brian, lived alone in rural Wales. He spent his days building unconventional contraptions that seldom work. Undeterred by his lack of success he invented Charles, an artificially intelligent robot who learns English from a dictionary and has an obsession with cabbages. A very quirky, humorous film.

The TimesIts mixture of sweetness and silliness is wonderful. ****

Wine & Nibbles available on the night

Entrance: £5

WORDSEARCH There are 11 words associated with Santa. To make it more difficult I have not included the list this month.

P	S	E	V	L	E	R	H	O	S	I	A	R	I
W	O	R	K	S	H	O	P	B	H	V	P	C	H
M	O	E	C	A	A	R	D	H	E	E	R	H	O
Y	O	Y	T	E	L	M	U	R	H	U	S	I	O
R	T	E	R	S	S	L	I	D	A	E	P	M	T
R	K	A	E	V	L	K	P	N	O	E	E	N	N
E	O	A	O	W	C	E	K	T	C	L	B	E	S
H	Y	S	S	A	H	S	I	Y	T	E	P	Y	O
S	A	H	S	R	Y	E	H	G	H	C	P	H	R
H	H	Y	S	H	S	Y	U	H	H	D	R	I	S
E	O	I	N	O	R	T	H	P	O	L	E	P	E
T	V	O	E	C	E	W	E	Y	L	R	D	I	H
W	S	R	H	T	B	T	I	S	O	P	L	W	S
G	T	V	N	E	I	C	A	R	R	O	T	M	R

NOVEMBER SOLUTION

S	D	A	E	B	O	T	T	O	M	A	N	E	C
A	I	B	O	O	K	S	H	E	L	F	B	A	T
E	C	D	F	R	E	D	U	E	S	D	D	R	C
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C	A	E	E	B	R	U	S	R	C	A	F	R	B
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M	E	E	R	F	E	I	E	D	H	K	V	E	S
B	A	C	B	W	A	T	N	O	L	C	I	R	K
U	U	U	H	R	R	C	D	E	N	U	D	A	F
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C	A	W	B	O	I	T	A	B	L	E	E	L	C
C	E	R	E	B	O	R	D	R	A	W	D	A	V



*'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas,
just like the ones I used to know...'*



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2nd 15 G Andrews
3rd 7 J Boyce
90 N Seabright
92 B Sharples

Paul Davies
100 club organiser





CHRISTMAS BINGO

at
BOSBURY VILLAGE HALL

on
FRI, 9th DEC 2022

9	Doors open 6.45 pm- eyes down 7.30				
★	A fundraising event organised by the				★
	BOSBURY BOWLS				
1	2	&	2	0	
	TENNIS CLUB				
	SUPER PRIZES				2
	including top prize £50 CASH				
★	Guest caller: Rob Lewis				2
	Christmas cheer refreshments available				



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- Draughtproofing
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- The property is inefficient
- You have a household income of under £30,000 or a member of the household receives means-tested benefits

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kepherefordshirewarm.co.uk/home-improvements



DECEMBER 2022

OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES



We know that everyone is under increasing financial pressure at the moment, which is why we are highlighting how to stay more protected this season whilst shopping online.

We are also pleased to bring you a selection of discounts from our corporate partners on a variety of door locks and cyber protection software, along with a 50% discount on Neighbourhood Watch branded tote bags and pin badges - ideal gifts for Coordinators.

Please note that we do not want to increase

pressure to purchase items but to ease the financial pressure on paying for the items which keep you safe.

If you are impacted by the cost of living and need some extra support, be that in financial support, money saving tips; steps to avoid becoming a victim of crime, or support to help reduce loneliness and isolation, please visit our dedicated [cost-of-living support pages](#).



Be Cyber Aware during the Christmas shopping period

Action Fraud and the National Cyber Security Centre are urging our readers to protect their personal accounts, check before they buy, and use secure payment methods in order to stay ahead of the threat from criminals this shopping season.

New data from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) shows shoppers lost over £15 million to cyber criminals during the festive period last year, with an average loss of £1,000 per person. Take these steps to ensure you are more protected during the Christmas shopping period.

- **Protect your accounts:** set up 2-step verification and use three random words passwords to prevent cyber criminals from gaining access to your shopping, bank or email accounts.
- **Check before you buy:** Research online retailers, particularly if you haven't bought from them before, to check they're legitimate. Read feedback from people or organisations that you trust, such as consumer websites.
- **Pay securely:** Use a credit card when shopping online, if you have one. Most major credit card providers protect online purchases and are obliged to refund you in certain circumstances. Using a credit card (rather than a debit card) also means that if your payment details are stolen, your main bank account won't be directly affected. Also consider using a payment platform, such as PayPal, Google or Apple Pay. And whenever you pay, look for the closed padlock in the web address bar – it means your connection is secure.

If you've received an email you're not sure about, forward it to the [Suspicious Email Reporting Service \(SERS\)](#) at report@phishing.gov.uk. If you've received a suspicious text message, forward it to 7726 (free of charge).

If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

More information on the [NCSC's Cyber Aware campaign](#) and online shopping safety can be found on the [NCSC website](#).



Secure your email password.

Use three random words





HM Government



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The background of the advertisement shows a dark, modern interior with glass partitions. Two signs are visible: one on the left that says "SECURED BY PATLOCK" and another on the right that says "SECURED BY PATLOCK". The overall lighting is dim, creating a sense of security and mystery.

BLACK FRIDAY

On Friday 25th November
order a Patlock for
ONLY £34.99

patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch

The Neighbourhood Watch logo, which is a circular emblem. It features a yellow border with the words "NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH" in black. Inside the circle, there are three stylized human figures in blue and yellow, and the years "1962 - 2022" are written at the bottom.

Providing a clear visible deterrent for dark nights

Offers to Neighbourhood Watch supporters

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and PetLatches

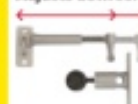


locklatch.co.uk
USE CODE: NWNLock

**OFFER VALID FROM BLACK FRIDAY
THROUGH TO CYBER MONDAY**

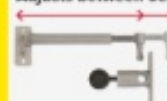
MiniLatch®

Let fresh air in, keep opportunistic intruders out.
Adjusts between 4.5 to 8 cms



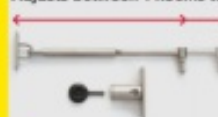
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**DISCOUNT AUTOMATICALLY APPLIED FROM BLACK FRIDAY
THROUGH TO CYBER MONDAY WHILST STOCK LASTS**

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales. CIO No. 1173349



We are a national charity that covers England and Wales with a tiny staff team of 9 people. We provide resources, tools and events to support our members to keep their communities safe, inclusive and vibrant places to live. It doesn't cost a penny to be a member of the national movement.

We rely on funding streams and your generosity so we can keep doing this. Any support you can offer us through these initiatives below, or through a [donation](#), is greatly appreciated.

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for us with easyfundraising?

There are over 7,000 brands on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds. All you need to do is:

1. Go to easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/neighbourhoodwatch and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the brand will make a donation to us at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and we will be really grateful for your donations.

Help us raise FREE donations

when you do your Christmas online shopping

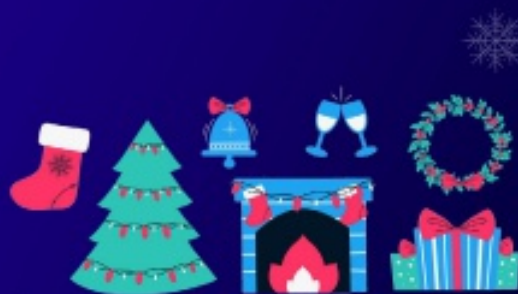


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WIN CHRISTMAS



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
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- Help give our fundraising a seasonal boost

Christmas is now well and truly on the horizon, and on Saturday 10th December one of our LOTTERY supporters could WIN CHRISTMAS! That's right - this mega prize bundle includes a huge food hamper containing all your favourite festive treats, a luxury tree, stockings, a door wreath, decorations, lights, bubbly, chocolates, and so much more. We've included everything but the sprouts!

That's on top of the weekly cash prizes, AND the chance to win the £25,000 jackpot!

You will automatically be entered into this national draw if you are already part of our lottery. Of course if wish to buy extra tickets, the more tickets you have, the more chances you have to WIN!

[PLAY NOW](#)

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a portion of the purchase price to your selected charity. All you need to do:

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- **Shop:** Always start your shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk (same prices, same products)
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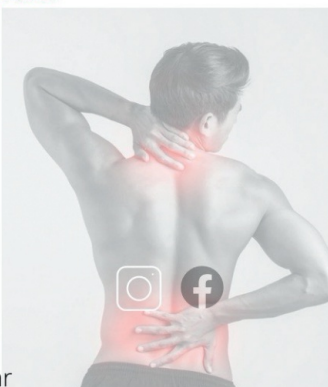
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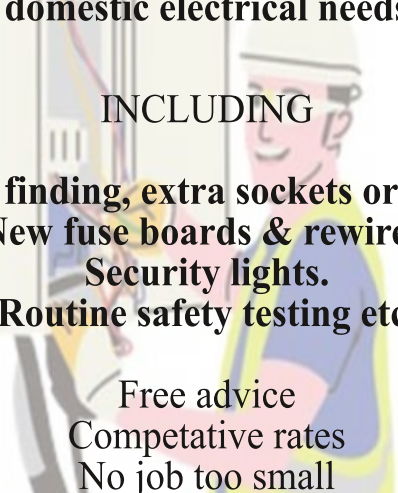
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Greener footprints

Tis the season of goodwill ... sometimes it can feel like the season of mindless over consumption too! How can you enjoy a greener Christmas?

The tree: if you go for a real tree make sure it's UK grown. Not difficult in Herefordshire as there are 8 growers on the official list bctga.co.uk/onlineDirectory and then make sure it returns to the soil by using St Michael's Hospice tree collection service.

The cards: look out for the FSC mark on your cards and recycle them or use them for gift tags and decorations next year.

Wrap it up well: more than half of us re-use last year's wrapping paper which is excellent! If that's not for you, buy recycled paper, avoid glittery and metallic paper, or use bags or fabric that can be re-used countless times.

The joy of leftovers: reduce your food waste by eating up what's in your freezer now so there's plenty of space for the leftovers. BBC Good Food has a great section of recipes for leftovers.

Really good gifts: just in Ledbury we've got the Apothecary Shop, Ethos, Leaf and many more stocking plastic-free, fairtrade or organic gifts. Or give a donation: Oxfam and the Ethical Superstore stock a range of charity donations which have got to be better than socks.

Be merry and bright: if you haven't already, swap your Christmas lights for LED. Get solar powered for outside and make sure you understand the timer! Dress to impress: the charity shops are full of Christmas jumpers and party outfits now – there's no need to buy new.

Most importantly, we hope you can spend time with friends and family, go on some walks in our beautiful county and feel truly grateful. Maybe you're looking for your New Year's resolution or your big achievement for 2023? Could it be insulating your home, investing in renewable energy or trying out an electric car or bike? Over sixty actions and lots of helpful links are available here: greatcollaboration.uk/the-toolkit/

By Helen Heathfield and Rebecca Tully (friends who live in Canon Frome).
Can we solve your greener dilemma? Please tell us all about it via helenheathfield@gmail.com



PLEASE ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO REQUEST
A
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