

Benefice Magazine

Merry Christmas



St. Paul's, Quarnford



St. Luke's, Sheen

December

2011

Longnor, Quarnford & Sheen with Newtown
Reapsmoor & Hollinsclough



St. Bartholomew's, Longnor



St. John's, Reapsmoor

40p



St. Paul's, Newtown



Benefice Directory

Vicar: Rev^d James Forrester 01298 83742

Worship Leader Janet M^cNicol 01298 812053

St. Bartholomew's, Longnor

Church Wardens	Mr. L. Riley	01538 300313
	Mr David Twigg	0129883477
Secretary	Mrs. M. Boam	01298 83513
Treasurer	Joanna Layton	
Organist	Mrs. N. Twigg/Mrs. J. Hollingshead	
Deanery Reps.	Mr. J. Gilman	01298 83486
	Mrs. M. Gilman	01298 83486
Magazine Rep.	Mr. G. Roe	01298 83101
Flowers	Mrs. A. Evans	01298 83537

St. Paul's, Quarnford

Miss J. M ^c Nicol	01298 812053
Mrs. V. Battram	01298 22758
Mrs. M. Owen	0161 4913323
Miss J. M ^c Nicol	01298 812053
Miss G. Belfield L.R.A.M.	
Miss J. M ^c Nicol	01298 812053
Mrs. V. Battram	01298 22758

St. Luke's, Sheen

Church Wardens	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396
	Mr. G. Grindon	01298 83264
Secretary	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396
Treasurer	Mr. C. Belfield	01298 84809
Organist	Vacant	
Deanery Reps.	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396
Flowers	Mrs. A. Belfield	01298 84396

St. Paul's, Newtown

Secretary	Mrs. M. Williams	01298 83350
Treasurer	Mr. J. Gilman	01298 83486
Organist	Mrs. J. Hollinshead	
Magazine Rep.	Mrs. M. Williams	01298 83350

St. John's, Reapsmoor

Mrs. M. Mycock	01298 84585
Mrs. J. Gregory	01298 84429
Mrs. J. Gregory	01298 84429

Church Schools: Headteachers

Longnor & Flash (The Heathylee Federation)	Mrs. S. Evans	01298 83233
Flash		01298 23442
Hollinsclough	Mrs. J. Mountford-Lees	01298 83303

Methodist Minister

Rev ^d Colin Smith	01298 23556
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Uniformed Associations

Brownies	Diana Fernihough	01538 371958
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From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

I had to visit Sheffield the other day, and as I was driving towards the city my eye was caught by a large billboard at the side of the road, advertising 'A Live Nativity Play', due to take place on 6 nights in the run up to Christmas. I was intrigued by the title and it made me wonder what they had in mind. My first thought was that they had found 6 heavily pregnant women who would be able to give birth on the required night! But as we all know, quite apart from the practical difficulties of finding 6 suitably qualified women to take part, the timing of a natural birth is always rather uncertain, so that all 6 babies could have arrived on the same evening, or they could all have been late. Having decided that my first thought must be wrong, I then wondered what 'A Dead Nativity Play' would be like. I suppose that we could describe any crib scene as 'dead' because it is using images of the people and the animals present at the birth. Such a scene may well inspire us, but there is no movement to keep our attention. In the end, it was suggested to me that perhaps the description 'Live' meant that live animals would be part of the play, hence the title chosen.

What we shall be preparing to celebrate later this month is the real, live nativity of Jesus. We don't know exactly when Jesus was born, neither the exact year nor the time of the year; the stories in the New Testament are not that concerned about such details and we can't go and check the details in the Registers because record keeping in Palestine then was not as rigorous as it is today in this country. But we can trust that the bible is telling us the truth when it talks about the coming of Jesus the son of Mary, born in Bethlehem in humble circumstances. Whether or not live animals are used, there will be many nativity plays happening around the world as Christians celebrate once again the coming of our saviour.

The good news for us is that the coming of Jesus was no play, but a real and very important event. In the story that Luke records for us there is, as there should be in any play, plenty of drama. We will be reminded during our Christmas services of the drama of Joseph and Mary arriving in Bethlehem and finding no room to stay; of the angels singing the praises of the new-born child; and of the shepherds caught up in the event. Then there is the drama of the escape into Egypt to avoid Herod's jealous wrath. There is plenty of drama in the story of the birth of Jesus.

However, unlike a play that you might go and see and which might last a couple of hours or so, the drama of the birth of Jesus has consequences that continue to echo through the ages of history. Yes, some plays that you might see will have such an impact on you that you will find that you have changed as a result of seeing them, but the drama that took place in Bethlehem with the birth of Jesus and continued with his life, death and resurrection, has led to millions upon millions of people being transformed. Think how many children must have been born in Bethlehem over the years; how many others are still remembered 2000 years after their birth? As Mary and Joseph played their part in the drama, a new age could dawn for the whole world, with its astonishing message of good news.

I hope that you will be able to come to one of our special Christmas services in the next few weeks and my prayer for you is that as you hear the story of Jesus' birth once again, you will find it not just a nice story but also a living encounter with the living Son of God. May Christmas be for all of us a time of renewed life, joy and hope.

With best wishes to you all,
James Forrester



Benefice News

Local Police Number

0300 123 44 55

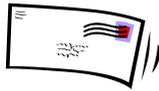
For all non-emergency calls

**Paid box adverts at £2/month
(£20/year) to be in all editions of the
Parish Magazine.**

Advertisements welcome.

Used Postage Stamps

Thank you to all the people who leave stamps in our churches. Please try to leave a narrow strip round each stamp. They keep coming steadily and are very welcome. One person sorts them into British and foreign and this saves a lot of time. Thank you.



Teddies for Tragedies

Sixty teddies were sent to sick and needy children during October. Thank you.....and keep knitting!!!!

Best Wishes

We send our very best wishes to Rev. Paul Skillings as he retires as our Rural Dean at the end of December. He and his wife, Beryl, will be moving to their new home at the end of January and we wish them every happiness.

First Responders News

Flash and Longnor

(Incorporating Warslow, Elkstones, Blackshaw, Quarnford, Hollinsclough and Sheen)

www.falfr.org.uk

The group celebrated its 11th birthday on the 11th of the 11th 2011, how clever was that! We are also celebrating, not only our three new recruits but seven new applicants who are going through their interviews and CRB checks prior to getting a place on a training course. Things are looking up for the group, an increase in numbers will not only mean we can give more cover but can also share some of the admin. We now have a fundraising and publicity 'officer', Darren Barlow from Warslow.

The group recently enjoyed a joint training session with the Longnor Fire Brigade on dealing with a trapped casualty needing to be cut out of a vehicle. It was a very interesting and informative evening showing new techniques that make the process safer for all concerned and quicker for the casualty. It's hoped to have another session in the New Year.

Donations to the group since the last news letter are very gratefully received from, Louise Storer who raised £180 with the annual Longnor Duck Race, Sue Storer and the Longnor Well Dressing Team who gave us the Well donations of £41.63, Theresa Riley who



held an exhibition of coins and raised £51.50, Edwin Bellfield of Leek who gave us £30 in memory of his wife Edith, a donation of £5 from a lady who saved her 5p coins for us and Trevor at Longnor Village Stores had £53.15 in the collecting box, that box does better than any! Thank you all very much. We are going to have to buy lots of new uniforms!

Merry Christmas and a Safe, Happy and Healthy New Year

For any information about fundraising or if you would like to train to become a First Responder please contact;
Darren Barlow – 01298 84820
Peter Baker – 01298 83120
Jackie Ellis – 01298 83436

Concert with the Hollinsclough Silver Band

Tuesday 13th December at 8.00pm in Longnor church. Tickets are £3 per person, which includes refreshments. As well as the Band entertaining us there will be a short musical contribution from a special guest. (Hint: he usually wears a dog-collar.) Please come and join us for a joyful evening.

Dates for your diary: December

Friday 9th Carols by Candlelight - Hollinsclough
Tuesday 13th Concert - Longnor
Sunday 18th Carol Service - Flash

Mobile Library

Quarnford /Flash	Springhead Road Junction	11.00 - 11.10
	Flash School	11.15 - 11.35
	Travellers Rest	11.40 - 11.50
	Lower Summerhill	11.55 - 12.00
	Colshaw Lane End	12.05 - 12.10
Hollinsclough	School	1.25 - 1.45
Longnor	The Square	1.55 - 2.15
	Old Saw Mill	2.20 - 2.25
Barrowmoor	Badgers Croft	2.35 - 2.45
Reapsmoor	Swallow Moss (house call)	3.00 - 3.05
	Park House	3.10 - 3.15

Friday 2nd December, 23rd December,

Sheen	Dovefield	12.35 - 12.45
	Cross Cottage	1.55 - 2.05
	Ball Ridge Farm	2.10 - 2.20
	Woolaway	2.25 - 2.40

Monday 5th December,
(26th December Bank Holiday, no service)

Deadline for the Magazine

All material should be delivered to Lynda by 20th December for the January edition. Please send to Mrs. L. Bricklebank, Cottage of Content, Hollinsclough, Buxton, SK17 0RG Telephone 01298 83541 or email lynda356@tiscali.co.uk We are now able to send the magazine by email. If anyone would like to change or to subscribe, please let me know.

They walk among us.....

One day I was walking down the beach with some friends when someone shouted.....'Look at that dead bird!' Someone looked up at the sky and said...'where?'



Longnor

Church Clock

You will have seen that work on the clock has started. At the time of writing we do not know when the painting of the face and the refitting of the hands will take place but we trust that you are not missing the chimes too much; we trust that all will be back in working order before Christmas.

We thank all who have contributed so far towards the cost of the work.

Very especially we want to thank **Bob Smith** for all the years of clock-winding that he has done. The mechanism will be self-winding when it is refitted, and so the long climb up to the clock chamber and the hard work of winding up the weights will no longer be required, though occasional visits to adjust the time may be necessary. Thank you, Bob, for all that you have done to keep the clock running smoothly for our benefit.

Donations

We acknowledge with thanks a donation from Marian Etches. Also a gift from the Gould family, for the clock.

Candlelit Carol Service

We hope that you will join us for the Carol Service in St. Bartholomew's on Sunday 18th at 6.30. The service will be by candlelight as much as possible, so you might like to bring a small torch so that you can sing the carols. We will be serving mince pies and mulled wine after the service.



Choir for Christmas

It would be great if we could get a small choir together to sing for the Carol Service

on the 18th. If you are interested in this please speak to the Vicar. Rehearsals will probably be on Mondays 5th and 12th at 7.30pm.

Coffee and Chat

We will be holding another Coffee and Chat in the church on Thursday 8th December from 10.30-11.30. All are welcome.

Autumn Fair

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the Autumn Fair such a huge success.

To the stall holders, the raffle ticket sellers, the poster makers, everyone who donated produce for the Christmas Hamper which was made at such short notice.

Last but not least a big Thank-you to everyone who came and supported us so generously.

Jams and cakes	417	50
Hamper	159	00
Bonus Ball	49	00
Bottle Tombola	150	39
Tombola	122	50
Children's card game	11	00
Christmas cake raffle	82	10
Teddy	54	00
Main Draw	106	00
Teas	43	61
Door	30	30
Donations	50	00
Donation from sale of calendars	12	00
TOTAL	£1287	40

Thank-you for Donations from-
Dilys Johnson, Joe and Teresa, and Anon



Results

Main Draw

Kevin Simpson	Whiskey
Mary Boam	Dairy Box
Brenda Oliver	Roses
Sue Storer	Talc set
Joanne Boam	Ornament
Barbara Mellor	Ornament
Marion Ashmore	Tea Bags
Della Malkin	Teddy Bear
Dilys Johnson	Ginger still
Carol Gould	Tea Bags
Michela Griffiths	Cake Mug
Della Malkin	Wine Glasses
Doug Chappell	Photo Frame
Renee Mellor	Scarf and Gloves
Caroline Harvey	Christmas Mug
Cobbles Tea Room	Christmas Mug
Jul Kepple	Teddy Bear
Caroline Harvey	Necklace
Peter Wooliscroft	Pink Teddy
Duke	Tea Bags
Hamper	David Simpson

Christmas Cake Raffle

Christmas Cake	Carol Gould
Whiskey	Olive Francis
Wine	Nigel Allen
Biscuits	David Simpson
Bonus Ball	Freda Perkins
Teddy	Dilys Johnson

Magazine Subscriptions

It's that time of the year again, magazine subscriptions are due at the end of December. An envelope will be attached to next month's magazine.

Thanking you for your continued support.

Longnor Area WI

Christmas Puddings

Carolyn Chambers, WI Secretary, led us all on a culinary journey with the goal of creating the perfect traditional Christmas

pudding. Despite the chill of the school hall (the heating is not yet working), the event was very well attended and everyone had a really enjoyable time chatting, stirring bowls of fragrant ingredients, and members and guests all took home a beautifully packaged pudding to steam the following day. Anyone taking a walk through the village on Christmas day will probably get an appetising whiff of all the puddings steaming simultaneously...

Our next meeting is in the school hall again (we have been assured that the heating will be fixed!) and will be in the form of a Christmas Party, to which all members, visitors, speakers, and indeed anyone wishing to join the WI are cordially invited, along with a guest or spouse. This will take place on Wednesday the 14th December at 8pm and guests are asked to bring a couple of bottles and a dish for the buffet table. Please RSVP to melandrasmith@gmail.com or carolynchambers@btinternet.com if you would like to attend and get your glad rags ready!

LONGNOR CHRISTMAS MARKET
SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2011
AT
ST. BARTHOLOMEWS SCHOOL
11.00am to 4.00pm

As you may all already know, we will be running another Christmas Market in the school this year along the lines of the impromptu one we held last year in place of the outdoor one.

This year we propose to have twice the number of stalls in the school that we had last year with a wide variety of gifts and produce. Refreshments will also be available on the day.

We will also be holding the Christmas Lights Competition again this year to coincide with



the market and will be awarding the new trophy and a prize to the winner. We will send out leaflets about this nearer the time.

Once again we thank everyone for their support and hope you will all enjoy doing all your Christmas shopping at the market on the 10th December.

We are currently looking for prizes for our tombola stall and are appealing for donations from anyone who has unwanted gifts or any other items. All proceeds will go to the continuation of holding markets in Longnor for the benefit of the whole community.

Donations can be given to any of the following:

- Gill & Richard Kebble at Far Cottage, Church St. Tel:83738
- Sharon Ford at Dove Cottage
- Christine Murray
- Michela Griffith

In Aid of Quarnford Responders

Again, we are having a stall at Longnor School Christmas Fayre on Saturday, December 10th selling homemade **Christmas cakes, puddings and mince pies, holly wreaths** and lots of other homemade produce. If you would like to pre-order any of these ring Pam 01298 687452, Joyce 01298 84405 or Carol 01298 83329. This year we will be donating all profits to Quarnford First Responders.

Best Wishes

We send our Best Wishes for a long and happy retirement to Trevor and Margaret Sweetmore as they leave Sweetmore's Stores, in Longnor. Trevor's has been an

institution for 39 years and they will be missed.

Good Luck to Jason and Helen Kidd as they take over.

My cousin has a lifesaving tool in her car which is designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped. She keeps it in the car boot.

They Walk Among Us!

Quarnford

Sunday 18th December
2.30 p.m.

Carol Service and Christingle

We hope that families and friends will join us for this celebration, and on Christmas Day at 11.30 a.m. for a service of Holy Communion.

Would anyone like to help with making the Christingles? Please contact Janet on 01298 812053

CARDS

Church Christmas cards will be for sale at all services up to Christmas, and we are grateful to Lyndsay for selling them for us at Flash Bar Stores.

THANK YOU

We acknowledge, with grateful thanks, funeral donations in memory of Edith Belfield.

We also give thanks to Karen Kidd for £70 from her car run and table top sale.

QUARNFORD QUEST

Winners for November:

- 1st M.Wood, Leek
- 2nd J.Eardley, Holywell
- 3rd D.Hall, Warslow



ORGANISTS

A very big "thank you" to the eight people who have played the organ for our services this year, especially Brian, Geoffrey and Kathleen. All our organists regularly play at their own churches and kindly come along to us whenever they can. (Geoffrey will be playing at Waterhouses on Christmas Day and then dashing all the way to us for 11.30am)

***** WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS, FROM ST. PAUL'S, QUARNFORD *****

While looking at a house, my brother asked the Estate agent which direction was north because He didn't want the sun waking him up every morning. She asked, 'Does the sun rise in the north?' My brother explained that the sun rises in the east And has for sometime. She shook her head and said, 'Oh, I don't keep up with all that stuff.....'

They Walk Among Us!

Sheen

NOVEMBER'S ONE HUNDRED CLUB RESULTS

1 st No 96	Margaret Gould	£20
2 nd No 116	Arthur Spendlow	£15
3 rd No 124	Cliff Gree	£10
4 th No 52	Keith Walmbly	£7
5 th No 66	Ann Oliver	£5
6 th No 130	David Gould	£4

Thank you, to all 122 Members

WAKES COFFEE MORNING -was a great success it was nice to see so many people there. Thank you to everybody who helped

in any way or donated prizes. We raised £1,244.83 for church funds.

WAKES MAIN DRAW -£50 Joseph Critchlow, £20 A Salas Cheddleton, Whisky Tony Allen, Sherry Heather Stubbs, Biscuits Paul Critchlow, Port Susan Day, Chocolates M Storer Longnor, Towels Lesley Wainwright, Baileys Charlotte Hall, Wine Dorothy Birch, Wine Ian Gill, Jewellery Holder Freda, Foot Spar Audrey Morson.

WAKES ROOM DRAW - Photo Irene Gould, Glass Vase Irene Gould, Chocolate Biscuits Doreen Bassett, Biscuits Chris Belfield, Wine Jean Belfield, Tea Towels Jean Belfield, Wine George Grindon, Wine Mary Bury, Tray Jack Stubbs.

COMPETITION WINNERS -Best Biscuits 1st Ellen Critchlow, 2nd Emma Belfield, 3rd David Belfield. Number at the end of £10 note was 91 won by Mavis Gilman, Jar of onions was won by Bob Adams with 43 onions. Thank you to everybody who entered.

MARY'S QUIZ -raised £96 and Carol Hunter was the winner.

DONATIONS - Thank you for the anon harvest donation. Wakes Donation from Bob and Bess Adams, Mary Wheeldon and two Anon



HELP REQUIRED FOR PUTTING UP CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

- Saturday 10th December at 10am in church

CAROL SERVICE - Sunday 11th December at 6.30 hopefully with a visit from Santa. Refreshments will be served after the service.



CHRISTMAS EVE - Saturday
24th December 9.45pm

CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE -Friday 16th
December starts at 8pm in Sheen Village
Hall. All profit goes towards the up keep of
St Luke's church. The last whist drive made
£72 profit We would like to thank
everybody who supports us all year round. A
special thanks to the ladies in the kitchen
who do a very good job of the refreshments
and to people who donate prizes and of
course the people who come and play whist
in all weathers. We wish you all a Happy
Christmas.

BRASS CLEANING - Rose and Gwen

FLOWERS - Gemma

AEROBICS CLASS - every Thursday at
7pm in Sheen Village Hall all you need is
loose fitting clothing a pair of trainers,
bottle of water and a sense of humour. Cost
of the class is £3 per session. If you
require any further information, please
contact Pam Belfield on 84809.

POST OFFICE OPENINGS IN SHEEN -
Monday mornings 9am to 1pm in Sheen
Village Hall.

No post office on 26th December and 2nd
January 2011

New Year's Eve Party at the Village Hall

Tickets for this ever popular party will go
on sale on 1st December 2011. To reserve
your tickets please call Helen Critchlow on
01298 687021. £3 Adult, £2 Children
(under 14 years old). As ever please bring
your own booze and a plate of food for the
buffet. The party starts at 8pm until late!

We will be setting up the room on Friday
30th December at 2pm onwards - if you can
spare time to lend a hand it would be
greatly appreciated - thank you.

*While working at a pizza parlor I observed a man
ordering a small pizza to go. He appeared to be
alone and the cook asked him if he would like it cut
into 4 pieces or 6. He thought about it for some
time then said 'Just cut it into 4 pieces; I don't
think I'm hungry enough to eat 6 pieces.
They Walk Among Us!*

Reapmoor

In our harvest report we regretfully
omitted to mention the lovely displays of
flowers arranged by Avis, to whom we send
our sincere thanks. Sorry Avis!

Our annual Carol Service will take place on
Saturday 10th December, at 7.30pm. We
are hoping to provide the usual buffet and
room raffle. Any help with provisions of
food and raffle prizes would be greatly
appreciated, thank you! Sorry no
candlelight this year!!

Newtown

We will be having our Christmas Communion
Service and get-together at 7pm on
Christmas Eve. May we extend a warm
welcome to all.

Hollinsclough

Hollinsclough School

The Key Stage 2 children visit to the
Manchester Science Museum on 8th
November with the Heathylee Federation
of Longnor and Flash was very interesting
and enjoyable for all of the children.

We have revised our topic program for the
remainder of the year in order to make the
most of opportunities we have been



offered. For the second half of the autumn term, Key Stage 2 children will continue to study countries around the world, whilst Key Stage 1 children will begin learning about houses and homes. After Christmas, the Key Stage 2 children will begin a project about Hollinsclough which will cover aspects of History, Geography and Science. It is hoped that this will lead to the creation of a village trail. We would be interested to hear from any members of the community who would be willing to contribute local knowledge. The infant topics are "Walking with Dinosaurs" and "Animal Magic". In the summer term we will be finding out about the "Olympics and Ancient Greece", and "Going Green".

Our Chairman's Charity evening, "The Pampered Chef" on 16th November was very well attended - thank you so much to everyone who came along and also folks who couldn't attend but left donations for the charities.

Our Phonics workshop on 17th November, run by Mrs Goodyear, was also well attended and everyone agreed that it was a very useful session, explaining how phonics and reading is taught in school.

During week commencing 14th November we raised money for Barnados by helping our families at home, with one lucky child winning a Barney Bear for their efforts!

Our small group of schools, Hollinsclough, Flash and Longnor are organising Science weeks this term, with Science activities held each day.

Our science week is week commencing 21st November. The week will also include Key Stage 2 children making a pilgrimage to Longnor Church, as we have been discussing pilgrimages in our RE classes.

We will be at Longnor on 24th November for a Circus Day - this will include our science activities as well as circus skills, Literacy and design & technology activities.

Week commencing 28th November will be a week of visits and visitors. On Tuesday 29th November, our younger children are going to the Old House Museum in Bakewell - and a possible visit from 'The Guardian' reporters and photographers who want to know all about 'Flexi-schooling'. On 30th November we have been invited to share football skills coaching with the children from The Heathylee Federation of Longnor and Flash and we will have some professional footballers to help us, thanks to the sports partnership between the Co-Operative Bank and Stoke City Football Club!

On 6th December we will be having a Victorian Dress-Up cross- curricular day.

On 15th December the Park Ranger will be visiting to make bird boxes with the Key Stage 2 children.

Our run up to Christmas will include a visit to Buxton Opera House on 14th December to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. On 16th December we will have our Christmas Play, which is called "It's A Party", everybody welcome. We break up for the Christmas holidays on 20th December, but don't forget to join us that night for our Grand Christmas Fayre!, The children returning on 4th January 2012.

The Flexi School Learning Hub remains popular and continues to run every other Friday. The date for December is the 9th, when we will all be doing Christmas art activities.



On alternate Friday we run our Latin class, finishing this term on December 2nd.

On Wednesdays we have our "Let's Get Cooking" club after school from 3pm until 4pm. So far we have made muffins, stir fry, fruit kebabs and some very unusual sandwiches.

On Monday afternoons the children continue to swim at Waterhouses, and on Wednesdays we join The Heathylee Federation children from Longnor and Flash for PE at Longnor.

Little Berries is our pre-school provision, offering a fun, relaxed and positive environment for the little learners. Little Berries is available during term time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am - 3pm for ages 2+. On Tuesdays we have "Play and Stay" between 9.30am and 11.30am.

Please contact Mr Malbon at school on 01298 83303 if you would like any further information.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

History Live

*The History Live season continues at Hollinsclough on Wednesday, 7th December at 7.30pm in Hollinsclough Chapel Hall with **Chimney Pots at Christmas**. Roger Warrilow and Leek members of the Chimney Pots Protection Society join forces with History Live to usher in the Yuletide Season with Victorian customs and festive fare.*

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month from September until May. Everyone is welcome and we love to see new faces. Our renowned refreshments are included in the admission price. For more details contact: Sue 01298 83269.

Action Group

Next meeting is Monday, 6th December in Hollinsclough Chapel Hall at 7.30pm.

**Hollinsclough Chapel
Carols by Candlelight
Friday, December 9th
8pm
with
Hollinsclough Silver Band
and
Liz Hallam
followed by refreshments in the
Hall**

Warslow

Pre School

Open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Admission from 2 years old with funded places for 3 year olds.
Ofsted registered : 218188.
Planned activities based on Early Years Foundation.
All activities based in the safety of the Manifold Primary School site.
Please contact us to arrange a visit or to register your child to secure a place for future years.
Contact the Pre School Leader Sarah Broadley on 01298 84320 at Manifold Primary School.



Gradbach Chapel
December
4th at 2.30pm Rev Pope
Christmas Eve Candlelit Service
7.30pm Rev Kime

January
15th 2.30pm Rev Pope
29th 11.00 Rev Kime

Fast Broadband internet is now available everywhere, even in those hard to reach places.

22 years of developing , growing and running technical computer product and service based companies I'm often asked about the internet or the lack of it here in the beautiful peak district national park. I thought t would be good to take this opportunity to inform all my neighbours on a few exciting developments. My name is Lawrence Hill and I live here in Elkstones, a very pretty hamlet on the Staffordshire Mooreland's. I like to have the luxury to work from home when I can but of course found myself in the technological trap of not having such things like a working mobile phone or the ability to effectively use the internet. Ironic for someone of my skill set.

Most of us know that the internet is no longer a luxury but now the forth utility. Children cannot complete their education without a good reliable fast connection to the worldwide web. Businesses have to compile their VAT and TAX returns online and Farmers have now to update stock movement within 48 hours via the internet just to sight a few examples. For a lot of people you are probably wondering what this is all about as you access the internet via your telephone line and have a reasonably fast service. However a percentage of people, especially in the rural community, do not have the ability to connect to the internet and are fondly referred to as being in a "Not Spot" area. Adding to that there are no plans to reach the majority via the phone lines in the foreseeable future. For these people living in a Not Spot using the internet means, planning and time out of their busy lives travelling either to friends or family in

the towns, internet cafes or even sitting on the tops in their cars attaching mobile phones to their laptops in the hope they obtain a strong enough signal.

Being very technically astute three years ago I took a very expensive route and installed my first communication satellite dish for internet provision. Although the service was embryonic it at least worked in a fashion. The internet provision form the first generation of satellite communications could be best described as rubbish and on some occasions useless but it was the best that could be achieve with the technology available .

There is exciting news however, things have changed. So exciting I have decided to set up a company backed by the organisation who own this new technology. In December 2010 a number of new communication satellites specifically for internet connection were launched and over the past months have been commission for use and became available late this summer. For all the people and business who can't receive a fast and reliable broadband via their phone lines there is now a real and affordable service via satellite. The only requirement is that you have some southerly view of the sky and you will have the ability to receive up to a 10Mbps service with huge data allowances. To put that in perspective the available satellite speeds are faster and the data allowances are greater than the mean average of people receive via the phone lines and much greater than the targets set by the government for broadband provision.

Satellite broadband is no longer the installation of a large cumbersome unsightly dish for a slow unreliable and very expensive solution. The new breed of dish are only 74cm in diameter and can now easily blend into the environment where they are not seen providing a fast, reliable and economic internet connection.

My company is aptly named NotSpot Broadband ltd and can be contacted on 01538 300171 or for those who can access the internet can be viewed at www.notspotbroadband.com. We are more than willing to demonstrate this new service and open to answer any question. If you have any interest please call and we will help without any obligation.

So things have changed for not spot areas and Broadband is now achievable almost everywhere.



From the Manse

Dear Friends,

Advent is not a good season for those of us who get impatient in queues. The woman with whom I share my life complains about my impatience as I look at my watch, shift from one foot to the other, and ask how long it will be till we get to post office counter, the Morrison's check-out or the petrol pumps. In Advent it feels as though everyone is busy buying Christmas stuff and getting in our way!

For children Advent can seem to last forever. Even before the first Sunday in Advent plans for Christmas nativities are being made, carols rehearsed, and excitement levels are rising. A little voice aching with longing asks, "How long is to Christmas?"

For Christians, Advent Sunday isn't the starting-gun for Christmas but the beginning of a time of waiting, waiting even whilst we get on with the practical things that need to be done. It's a time of waiting as we reflect about God and his dealings with the world and ourselves.

This year, as we think about the world and ourselves we are conscious of different things. We give thanks that, for many people in our world, life is getting better - a rise in living standards and an end to life under tyrannical regimes. At the same time millions live in a poverty which can threaten the well-being of individuals and communities. Amongst them are those affected by changing weather patterns, lack of rain, and the hunger caused by drought.

In Europe, America and Great Britain we are trying to come to terms with an era in which we have borrowed far more than we could afford. There are fears about the effects of low growth rates on employment and the well-being of millions. Many are anxious and afraid.

We know the anxiety which often comes with change. My own "change" in 2012 will be retiring and a new pattern of life and sometimes I

wonder how I'll cope with it! As life moves on, change can be both exciting and worrying. Not least is our awareness that we are time-limited, that we will not be here forever, and uncertainty as to what the future holds.

Advent is a time to face these fears and anxieties in the light of the promises that we find in the Bible. At the heart of those promises is God's promise that he will come to be with us in the midst of all that life throws at us. It isn't the promise of an easy life but it is the promise that he will walk with us and help us find the way that leads to the life God wants for us.

The child of Bethlehem is both a fulfilment of old hopes and the promise that he is with us as we face the challenges that lie ahead. God promises that, in Jesus, those who allow him to enter into their lives will share in his work of justice, love and care. Beyond this life, they are given an assurance that they will journey towards that eternity of love and joy and peace that God wants to give to all people, if they will allow him.

So we wait, looking forward with hope, a confident hope, because Jesus is the promise of "God with us" both in times of well-being and in times of trouble. The light of God's love will shine with us even when our lives seem dark. Nothing and nobody will ever be able to put it out!

As we wait, may we find our hope strengthened and, when it comes, may we have joy in the birth of the Christ-child.

Christ's Peace be with you,

Colin S.



Festive Facts

US scientists calculated that Santa would have to visit 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, travelling at 650 miles a second.

ROBINS on cards were a joke 150 years ago when postmen wore red tunics and were named after them.

ALTHOUGH now mostly vegetarian, in Victorian times, mince pies were made with beef and spices.

THE tradition of putting tangerines in stockings comes from 12th-century French nuns who left socks full of fruit, nuts and tangerines at the houses of the poor.

DESPITE the tale of three wise men paying homage to baby Jesus, the Bible never gives a number. Matthew's Gospel refers to merely "wise men".

CAROLS began as an old English custom called wassailing, toasting neighbours to a long life.

CAROLS weren't sung in churches until they were introduced by St Francis of Assisi in the 13th century.

HANGING stockings out comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for St Nicholas's donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.

THERE is no reference to angels singing anywhere in the Bible.

NEARLY 60 million Christmas trees are grown each year in Europe.

THE word Noel derives from the French expression "les bonnes nouvelles" or "the good news".

THE abbreviation Xmas isn't irreligious. The letter X is a Greek abbreviation for Christ.

THE world's tallest Xmas tree at 221ft high was erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950.

THE chances of a white Christmas are just 1 in 10 for England and Wales, and 1 in 6 for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

BEFORE turkey, the traditional Christmas meal in England was a pig's head and mustard.

IN 1647, after the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell banned festivities. The law wasn't lifted until 1660.

In 1999, residents of the state of Maine in America built the world's biggest ever snowman. He stood at 113ft tall.

THE holly in a wreath symbolises Christ's crown of thorns while the red berries are drops of his blood.

THE first commercial Christmas cards were commissioned by civil servant Sir Henry Cole in London in 1843. Featuring a family drinking wine, one sold for £8,469 last year.

THE largest Christmas cracker - 45.72m long and 3.04m in diameter - was pulled in Australia in 1991.

JINGLE Bells was the first song broadcast from space when Gemini 6 astronauts Tom Stafford and Wally Schirra sang it on December 16, 1965.

SANTA has different names around the world - Kriss Kringle in Germany, Le Befana in



Italy, Pere Noel in France and Deushka Moroz (Grandfather Frost) in Russia.

THE word Christmas comes from the Old English "Cristes maesse" meaning "Christ's Mass".

THE bestselling Xmas single ever is Bing Crosby's White Christmas, shifting over 50million copies worldwide since 1942.

IN Britain, the best-selling festive single is Band Aid's 1984 track, Do They Know It's Christmas?, which sold 3.5million copies. Wham! is next in the same year with Last Christmas, selling 1.4million.

35 SINCE 1947 Oslo has sent a Xmas tree to London to thank us for our help in the Second World War.

SANTA Claus comes from a Dutch folk tale based on Saint Nicholas, or Sinterklaas, who gave gifts on December 6.

BOXING Day gets its name from all the money collected in church alms-boxes for the poor.

THE Beatles hold the record for most Xmas number 1 singles, topping the charts in 1963, 65 and 67.

RUDOLPH the red-nosed reindeer was invented for a US firm's Christmas promotion in 1938.

GOLD-wrapped chocolate coins commemorate St Nicholas who gave bags of gold coins to the poor.

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Services in the Benefice for December 2011

	Longnor	Quarrford	Sheen	Newtown	Reapsmoor	Hollinsclough Chapel	Gradbach Chapel
Sunday December 4 th	Holy Communion 6.30pm	Evening Prayer 4.00pm	All-age Worship 11.00am	Morning Prayer 9.30am		Bryant 2.30pm	Rev Pope 2.30pm
Saturday 10 th					Carol Service 7.30pm		
Sunday 11 th	Morning Prayer 10.00am	Morning Prayer 11.30am	Carol Service 6.30pm			At Earl Sterndale	
Sunday 18 th	Carol Service 6.30pm	Carol Service 2.30pm	Morning Prayer 10.00am			6.30pm at Earl Sterndale	
Christmas Eve	Holy Communion 11.30pm		Holy Communion 9.45pm	Holy Communion 7.00pm		Christmas Eve Service 7.30pm	Rev Kime 7.30 pm Candlelit Service
Sunday 25 th	All-age Worship 10.00am	Holy Communion 11.30am				At Buxton 10.00am	
Sunday January 1 st	Benefice Service 10.30am						

Newtown - Short morning service 10.00 am each Thursday