

The Parish Newsletter, December 2017 and January 2018

As a child one of the really exciting moments in the days leading up to Christmas would be going to collect the post from under the churn-stand (it was made from an old air-raid shelter) at the end of the lane from our farm in West Sussex. The red letter day would be when the Christmas Edition of the Farmer's Weekly had arrived with its festive cover and, especially to the joy of my older brother, the prospect of the Farmer's Weekly Christmas Crossword! Unfortunately the Parish Newsletter isn't quite in the same league and neither do we have a crossword, but I love the buzz of all the festive news that comes my way as editor in the shape of events and village traditions that mark this time of year. So here is our red Christmas cover edition, which we hope will add to the anticipation of the coming season...

Christmas round up

Cheriton Bishop's Christmas possibly starts in its smallest (and cosiest) public hall on the first Saturday of December (page 7). Simultaneously and not far from this venue the Scouts begin their careers as budding entrepreneurs with their mammoth sale of Christmas trees (page 10). This is closely followed the following weekend with everyone's favourite ahhhhhh moments, courtesy of the annually adorable Pre School Nativity Play (see page 4). From the 17th of the month carols will be sung throughout the length and breadth of the parish, beginning in the parish church, closely followed by a community carol singing around the village and ending with both a candle-lit gathering at West Down chapel on Christmas Eve and Christingle in the church on Christmas morning. At some point during this week, if you live in a fairly bleak and desolate spot, you may hear the faint and thready notes of the folk singers as they stumble around the lanes in the dark. Last year we surprised a flock of sheep and traumatised someone's dog who was home alone. I believe we 'surprised and delighted' (other adjectives are available) some good folks who came out to see what all the noise was about and we were very much appreciative of their kindness in listening...

Anyway, I digress If you are one of those to whom Christmas is not complete without a nice fat turkey or goose (and indeed, who can resist the glorious aroma of a roasting fowl on

Christmas morning), please turn to page 18 and try your luck at the YFC bingo.

Advice Available

In all the busy days preceding Christmas it is easy to overlook other things that are going on. One very important new service being offered in Cheriton is "Citizens Advice Teignbridge" at the surgery each month. If you picked up your newsletter early you can catch the first of these on 24th November – for more details please see page 6.

Changes to newsletter for 2018

The Newsletter team had a nice cosy chat over a cup of tea in Jan and Paul's sitting room a few weeks ago to mull over the production of the monthly magazine and decide if any changes were needed. One of the matters we discussed was the August edition, which is always a bit of a struggle to put together with people away on holiday and doing other enjoyable summertime things. This is also a month when not a lot is actually happening in the parish apart from the Village Show (and this is widely advertised in the months before). So after much thought we decided to try having a double issue of July & August at the beginning of July. We'll see how this goes in 2018 and then review whether it caused any real inconvenience.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the team who have proof-read, printed, collated, dealt with the advertising and stapled 4125 Parish Newsletters together during 2017 and made my job as editor so enjoyable.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Jenny and the Newsletter team.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!: Friday 19th January at 6PM.
Copy should be left in the newsletter box at South Orchard, Woodbrooke Rd, or sent by email (word .doc please) to:
jennygrist@talktalk.net
Enquiries: Editorial – Jenny 281110
Advertising – Patience 24350

The News-letter Production Team

Advertising: Patience Netherway 24350
Assisted by Jan Mitchell 24405
Production: Jan Mitchell, Patience Netherway, Caryn Tripp.
Collation: Anne Welham, Paul Mitchell, Patience Netherway, William, Adam and Matthew Barclay.
Editor: Jenny Grist 281110

Front cover: designed by Richard Bower

Regular Meeting dates

Parish Council

Contact: Diane Shepherd 01363 85051

every second Monday evening in the month

Coffee Mornings at Crockernwell

Contact: Mrs A MacDonald 24446

every second Saturday in the month

Preschool

Contact: Christine Grist 281205

*Mon, Wed, Thurs 9 – 3.15, Tue 9.00 – 11.30,
also “Lunch Club” until 12.45 pm on Tues.
All during term time only*

Beavers (6-8yrs)

Contact: Rachel Barclay 01647 24575

every Thursday during term time

Cubs (8-10yrs)

Contact: James Morris 01647 252375

every Thursday during term time (after Beavers)

Scouts (10-14yrs)

Contact: Ollie Milverton 07706 695928)

every Monday evening during term time

Explorers (14-18yrs)

Contact: Phil Morris 01647 252375

every Thursday during term time (after Cubs)

West Down Bible Study & Prayer

Contact: Derek Coren 24264

every Monday evening from Oct – May

Gardening Club

Contact: Janet Jeffery 24414

*usually the third Monday evening in the month
during the Autumn and Winter*

West Country Embroiderers

Contact: Nicky Westcott 01835 82517
westcottnicky@gmail.com

every first Tuesday afternoon in the month

Short Mat Bowling

Contact: David Tripp 24582 or Pat Hill 24201

every Wednesday, Sept – May, 7.30 p.m.

Baby Clinic

Contact: The Surgery 24272

*every 4th Wednesday of the month 2 – 3 pm
(Clinics held in CB Surgery)*

Cheriton Bishop Baby and Toddler Group

Contact: Find us on Facebook

*in the School Hall every Friday 9-10.30 am
Term time only*

Young Farmers

Contact: Louise Putt 07792 518439

every 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings

Art at Caribarn Studio, Pitton Barton

Contact: Sue Bloomfield 24840

usually every last Friday of month 9.30–12.30

Spiritual Discussion Group

Contact: Penny Gare 24639

Monthly

Walking Group

Contact: Dennis Milton 01647 272844
or Jon Whitehead 01647 281454

*usually 1st Sunday in month 10.00 am [and in Summer
3rd Wednesday evening in month 6.15 pm]
(see posters and CB Walking Group Facebook page)*

Pilates (paid advert)

Contact: Adele 07976 427941

*every Friday morning, 8.55 am and 10.00 am,
during term time*

Has your organisation been left out? Please let us know so that it can be included on this regular page.

Has someone just moved in next door? Why not pop round with this newsletter and let them know what goes on in Cheriton Bishop and Crockernwell?

[Updated Dec 2017]

Don't Forget! If you picked up your newsletter in time...
YFC Pasty & Pint Quiz night
Is Friday 24th November
7.30 for 8 pm in the Village Hall

Diary Dates for December

Saturday 2 nd	Christmas Coffee Morning	Spalding Hall	10.30 – 12 noon
Saturday 2 nd	Scouts' Christmas Tree Sale	Crofters Mead	10 – 4 pm
Sunday 3 rd	Walking Group	YFC Centre	10 am
Sunday 3 rd	Bring & Share Lunch for John & Brenda	Village Hall	12 noon
Sunday 3 rd	Scouts' Christmas Tree Sale	Crofters Mead	10 – 12 pm
Monday 4 th	Gardener's Club Christmas Decorations	Village Hall	7.30 pm
Tuesday 5 th	Tedburn WI meeting	Tedburn VH	7.30 pm
Thursday 7 th	Acorn Christmas Lunch	Woodleigh CH	12.30 pm
Saturday 9 th	Scouts' Christmas Tree Sale	Crofters Mead	10 – 4 pm
Sunday 10 th	Scouts' Christmas Tree Sale	Crofters Mead	10 – 12 pm
Sunday 10 th	Pre School Nativity	Parish Church	11 am
Tuesday 12 th	West Country Embroiderers	Village Hall	12.30 – 4 pm
Wednesday 13 th	Acorn Trip to Sainsbury's		
Thursday 14 th	YFC Christmas Bingo	Tedburn VH	7 pm
Saturday 16 th	Decorating the Church for Christmas	Parish Church	From 10 am
Saturday 16 th	Local Produce Market	Village Hall	10 – 12 noon
Sunday 17 th	Christmas Carols in the Church	Parish Church	6 pm
Monday 18 th	Cuppa and a Chat	Spalding Hall	2 – 4 pm
Wednesday 20 th	Community Carol Singing	Stone Cross	6 pm
Christmas Eve	Carols by Candlelight	West Down	3 pm
Christmas Day	Christingle Service	Parish Church	10 am
Friday 29 th	Citizens Advice	The Surgery	10 – 4 pm

Diary Dates for January 2018

Tuesday 2 nd	Tedburn WI	Tedburn VH	7.30 pm
Thursday 4 th	Acorn Lunch	Woodleigh CH	12.30 pm
Saturday 6 th	Seed Collection morning	1 Woodpecker Way	10.30 – 12noon
Sunday 7 th	Walking Group	YFC Centre	10 am
Tuesday 9 th	West Country Embroiderers	Village Hall	1.30 – 4 pm
Monday 15 th	Cuppa and a Chat	Spalding Hall	2 – 4 pm
Monday 15 th	Gardener's Club Quiz	Spalding Hall	7.30 pm
Sunday 28 th	'Homeless Sunday'	West Down Chapel	3 pm

The Mobile Library: Monthly on Tuesdays **Next date: December 19th**

Crockernwell:			
Stanbury's Orchard	Arrives 14.35	Departs:	14.55
Cheriton Bishop:			
Glebelands	Arrives: 15.05	Departs:	15.35
Hescane Park	15.40		16.10

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 17 th March	Buffet Supper with Mariners Away and a Jazz Combo	Village Hall
Saturday 12 th May	Plant Sale and Coffee Morning	Churchyard

If your organisation has a one-off event planned for 2018, why not let us know in advance, by putting the dates in this box, so that dates don't clash?

Cheriton Bishop Website

For much more information about Cheriton Bishop, Crockernwell and the surrounding area
please visit the Cheriton Bishop Web Site: www.cheritonbishop.org.uk

Cheriton Bishop Pre-school Taking children (unaccompanied) **from ages 2 - 5 years**



Learning through play and making new friends

We provide **pre-school education** with fun and exciting activities linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. All in a spacious setting with a wide variety of equipment and secure outside play area. Up to 15 hours free for over 3 years olds using Early Years Funding, 22.5 hours of the extended entitlement for those who qualify, or just £4.10 per hour. We accept two-year-old funding for free places for 2-year olds, call in for details.

Please call Play leader Christine Grist: (01647) 281205 or 07977 777318 Email:

enquiries@cheritonbishoppreschool.co.uk

Or visit our website for more information: www.cheritonbishoppreschool.co.uk

Please call or email to book your place now.

Session times

Mon. 9 - 3.15pm

Tues. 9 – 11.30pm with optional lunch club -12.45pm. (To include our weekly Scout field visits.)

Wed. & Thurs. 9 – 3.15pm.

We currently have spaces available for all sessions.

Tesco's 'Bags of help' scheme. We are hoping for your votes in the Crediton stores until January 1st. So, when you are shopping in Tesco please add your token (that you might have to ask for!) in to the box labelled Cheriton Bishop Pre-school. We applied for money towards updating and improving our outdoor play area as we believe this is such a valuable area for children's learning. Thank you very much for your help in advance!

Cycle refreshment pit-stop

Join us on Sunday 3rd December for some festive refreshments

between 10.30am – 12.30pm at The YFC Building, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

£5 for a cup of home-made soup, mince pie/cake and drink.

All welcome

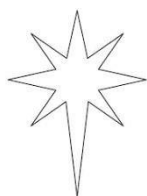
Nativity Performance

THE INNKEEPER'S BREAKFAST

Come along and join us for our annual nativity on
**SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 11AM ST. MARYS
CHURCH, CHERITON BISHOP**

and afterwards in the school hall for sales of:

'The Innkeeper's Breakfast' DVD, Tea & Coffee, Mince Pies & Mulled Wine,
Preschool Children's Christmas Crafts, Cake stall and much more!



Everyone at Cheriton Bishop Pre-school would like to thank you all for your continued support over the last 12 months and wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

District Councillors Comments

In a few weeks it will be Christmas and we will be saying to ourselves “Where has the year gone?”

In my Council ward over the past year I have lost some good friends and several were very public-spirited people who worked hard for the community and their particular village. In that sense they are a loss to us all.

Once again, planning applications have taken up a lot of my time. I have attended six full planning committee meetings and spoken at all of them, representing different parishes in my ward.

Refuse and recycling: All the refuse and recycling and some other Council departments are now situated at Hitchcock Farm, Willand, just off the M5 at Junction 27. It is a logistics industrial estate. Some weeks ago a new transfer station was opened there where some of our waste is transferred to the incinerator at Marsh Barton, Exeter. Mid Devon District Council is still working hard to raise its recycling figures and, if all goes according to plan, land fill will cease by the end of next year.

There have been many events and activities in Cheriton Bishop over the past year – all organised by an enthusiastic army of volunteers. The Parish Council together with generous help of others built the two new bus shelters either side of the C50 (Old A30). This was completed just in time for the visit of HRH Prince Charles on July 20th and the opening of the Rural Hub for the Devon Federation of Young Farmers Clubs.

Just recently there has been a big issue with dog fouling on a public road on the outskirts of the village. Just a gentle reminder that it is an offence to leave any dog faeces behind when walking dogs and provided there is sufficient evidence, MDDC will prosecute leading to a maximum fine of £1,000.

It was great to see so many, including many young people, attending the Act of Remembrance on Sunday November 12th.

With Christmas fast approaching you will find a variety of different activities listed in the newsletter ranging from the Acorn lunch, Christmas tree sale, Carol Services and carol singing in the village and much, much, more.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Remember: Jesus is the reason for the season!

If you have any matters you would like to take up with MDDC then please contact Peter or myself.

Peter Heal: pheal@middevon.gov.uk tel: 07970074091 & Derek Coren: dcoren@middevon.gov.uk tel: 07929858527

Derek Coren, Councillor MDDC

Cheriton Bishop Community Land Trust Affordable Housing

Building of the eight houses for (affordable) rent just off the Yeoford Road will start in a few weeks time. These houses will be owned by the village, represented by the Cheriton Bishop CLT Trustees. We hope people will move in during November 2018. People living in, or having a work or family connection with Cheriton, Crockernwell and Woodland Head will have priority, but you must be registered with Devon Home Choice to be considered. You can register if your income is not sufficient to afford adequate accommodation for your needs in this area, as well as if you have other kinds of housing need.

Priority is given according to need, but in the event of a tie in terms of need the choice might rest on how long each applicant has been registered with Devon Home Choice. If you have already registered, there is no need to do anything. If you have queries you can contact Tim Gorringer or Gill Westcott on 24789.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING
at St Mary's Parish Church

Saturday 16th December from 10.00am

Please come along to help decorate the church for Christmas. Bring your own flowers and foliage, berries, pot plants, cones, baubles etc. – whatever you would like to use. But seasonal colours please – red, green or white with silver and gold for some added sparkle!

Prepared trays will be in the church (by the Font) from the 9th December, if you prefer to do your arrangement at home.

There will be coffee and mince pies! Everyone welcome.

Juliet Dymoke-Marr
(Tel: 24415)

CITIZENS ADVICE TEIGNBRIDGE

WILL BE HOLDING MONTHLY SESSIONS
AT
CHERITON BISHOP & TEIGN VALLEY PRACTICE
ON THE 4TH FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

THE NEXT DATES ARE FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER AND FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER 2017
FROM 10AM – 4PM

THIS IS A FREE SERVICE AND
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE AN ADVISER
PLEASE CONTACT THE SURGERY RECEPTION ON 01647 24272

Local Produce Market

Saturday 16th December
10 – 12 noon
In Cheriton Bishop Village Hall

Come and support YOUR local Market
Fresh, locally produced foods to fill your fridge, freezer and larder!
for our Christmas market we will be serving FREE mince pies with tea or coffee and Carol
singers will be singing.

There will also be a craft table with various knitted toys; and beautiful jewellery; all at
affordable prices ideal for Christmas gifts and stocking fillers

COME IN AND SEE WHAT THERE IS ON OFFER, and have a chat!

Come and join us at ...

The Spalding Hall

on

Saturday 2nd December, 10.30 – 12 noon

Christmas Coffee Morning

Seasonal fayre to enjoy and buy

Mince pies, mulled wine, raffle and more

Proceeds to go towards funding the Hall



Pop in at the **Spalding Hall**
for a chat and a drink
and be together for a while
on **Monday 18th December 2017**
between **2pm and 4pm**



Everyone is very welcome – gentle dogs and children included!

*Choice of hot and cold drinks, and **mince pies!***

There is **no charge** but we do put out a pot for any donations towards the cost of hiring the hall

Need a lift from your home?

Ring Paul on 24405 beforehand

We also hope to hold the **Cuppa in January**, weather permitting, so put the date of Monday 15th January in to your 2018 diary! Same time, same place!

Remembrance Day Collection

The collection at the War Memorial and afterwards at the Service for Remembrance came to £257.93. Each year this collection goes alternately to the Royal British Legion or Help for Heroes and this year it has been sent to Help for Heroes.

Gardening Club Supper

Despite the change of name the evening was every bit as good as usual! I'd like to thank all those who [in the foreground and the background] cooked and baked and carried and lifted and planned and announced and prettied to make such fabulous food and ambience in the village hall on Saturday 11th November. There must have been well over 70 of us sitting down for the feast and yet it was all served with smiles and efficiency. Huge thanks to all, all, all the organisers and helpers. It was such a jolly evening and although I didn't manage my previous record number of puddings I *really* enjoyed the two main courses and nine puddings that I did manage to get through!!!

My thanks to you all
Jan Mitchell

Book Sale 2017

Once again the 3D object with printed pages called a book has risen to the challenge and encouraged a very selective group of reading addicts to acquire them! The donations these dedicated readers (or in the parlance of my learning-to-read grandchildren, "free readers") amounted to £408, which will be given to Cheriton Bishop School for books or similar.

The remaining books are now in the FORCE charity Shop in Heavitree, where they will encourage other free readers to acquire them. FORCE will accept DVDs and CDS so do not bin them but bring them to the next book sale November 2018. The date has already been booked into the Village Hall calendar on the grounds that it is easier to cancel than try and find a date!

So thank you, all purchasers of new books because without you there would be no books to sell; and to all those who re-cycle books with a dedication that the non-reader does not understand. And by non-reader I mean those who do not have a box full of books waiting to be read!

Persis Bower

Thank You!

We would like thank all of those who have sent cards and good wishes, offered help with shopping, given us advise and been supportive after my recent surgery.

We are extremely grateful and humbled. Although it has been said many times before, we will say it again, aren't we fortunate to live in such a lovely caring community.

Sally and Neil Sellick

Community Carol Singing

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

Tedburn and Cheriton Scout Group

Saturdays 2nd & 9th December (10 – 4 pm)

Sundays 3rd & 10th December (10 – 12 pm)

At Crofters Mead, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JU

Range of sizes, prices £15 - £30, choose your own tree,

Tea, coffee & mince pies

Recycle your tree for free in January!

Contact Christine for more information:

tedburnandcheritonscouts@gmail.com

Churchwarden's Ramblings

This is an extra-long version of the Ramblings with some dates to reserve in the New Year.

Firstly, a thank you to all who turned out for the churchyard working party, including those who provided the lunch. We managed to cut back the beech hedge and the hedge by the top entrance and generally tidy the churchyard, it looks a lot neater and ready for winter.

I must also thank the band of women and men who take turns in vacuuming, dusting and polishing St Mary's to keep it looking in good order, each pair being allocated a maximum of 3 fortnights a year. If you would like to help out in cleaning a building, parts of which have been here for around a thousand years, please give me a call, you don't have to worship at St Mary's to help out.

John and Brenda Tutton are moving away in the New Year, so in celebration of the time they have been here in Cheriton Bishop and become so much a part of our community, and also the wider Team of Churches, we are holding a Farewell Service at 10.30am at St Mary's on Sunday 3rd December. The service will be followed by a 'bring and share' lunch at the Village Hall at 12 noon, everyone is invited to the service and (separately) to the hall, please come along if you are able.

Our Harvest collection, which after Gift Aid had been taken into account, came to £108.75 and a cheque has been sent to Water Aid.

Decoration of the church for our Christmas celebrations will be on 16th of December and our Carol Service will be at 6pm on the 17th December followed by mince pies and mulled wine. On Christmas Day we have Christingle Communion at 10am, which could be looked upon as a welcome break for those who have been awake since 5am.

In the New Year we will be joining in a United Service at West Down at 3pm on 'Homeless Sunday', Sunday 28th January, when there will be a talk by Churches Housing Action Team. CHAT are a local organisation who are looking to put an end to homelessness in our area of Devon.

Some dates for your diary include 17th March for a Buffet Supper in the company of Mariners Away and a Jazz Combo at the Village Hall, and a repeat of the successful Coffee Morning and Churchyard Plant Sale on Saturday May 12th, further details of each event will appear in later editions of the Newsletter.

On behalf of the Church Council I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2018.

Alan Greenslade, Churchwarden, Tel: 24002.

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S CHERITON BISHOP AND OTHER CHURCHES IN THE NORTH KENN MISSION COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday 3rd

10.30 Cheriton Bishop

Advent 1

**Team Communion and
Farewell Service for Canon John Tutton**

Sunday 10th

9am Tedburn St Mary

9.30 Whitestone

9.30 Holcombe Burnell

11am Cheriton Bishop

3pm Pathfinder

3pm Oldridge

Advent 2

Holy Communion

Parish Communion

BCP Communion

Nativity

Prayer and Fellowship

Carols

Revd Prof Tim Gorringe

Revd Martin Wood

Canon John Tutton

Revd Martin Wood

Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 17th

11am Whitestone

3pm Tedburn St Mary

6pm Cheriton Bishop

6pm Holcombe Burnell

Advent 3

Carol Christingle

Carols

Carols

Carols

Revd Martin Wood

Revd Martin Wood

Revd Prof Tim Gorringe

Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 24th

3pm Pathfinder

4pm Tedburn St Mary

11pm Tedburn St Mary

11pm Whitestone

Advent 4

Carols

Crib Service

Midnight

Midnight

Revd Martin Wood

Revd Martin Wood

Revd Prof Tim Gorringe

25th December

10am Cheriton Bishop

10am Holcombe Burnell

Christmas Day

Christingle Communion

Christingle Communion

Revd Prof Tim Gorringe

Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 31st

10.30 Pathfinder

Christmas 1

Team Communion

Revd Martin Wood

EACH THURSDAY

10.30 Pathfinder

Holy Communion.

Revd Martin Wood

***We invite everyone, including children, to attend all of our services.
Please note that the Spalding Hall is open for the use of the toilets during
service times.***

Getting ready for Christmas

I must confess to being a little frustrated that as soon as summer is over the Christmas aisle appears in the shops in September. I watch it slowly grow in size and depth over the next few weeks and by November, it feels that Christmas must be just a week away.

I sometimes wonder who really is shopping this early? I want to blame the shops for starting things way too soon. But I know deep down, if there were no demand for Christmas stock until December the shops would not waste valuable floor space with things they are not going to sell until later. The shop-keepers respond to our demands rather than hopefully entice us to Christmas early. As I write, I am amused that Christmas stock came much earlier than Halloween stock, and by comparison, Christmas stock seems more substantial and worthwhile. I sound a bit like Ebenezer Scrooge in my approach to Christmas, but trust me, if we get on to Christmas lights and the appropriate time for them I really do become Ebenezer Scrooge!

However, if we go back to the first Christmas and look for the preparations then, we see God's plan coming together over a period of 15 months. The story starts in Luke's gospel with Elizabeth and Zechariah, a childless couple. An angel announces to Zechariah, that he is going to have a child. He does not believe it to be possible because they are too old to have children. Yet, Elizabeth does become pregnant. It is to Elizabeth that Mary comes to share her news that she is going to have a child. We are told that Elizabeth is already six months pregnant, despite her old age she becomes proof of what God can do. We are also told that Elizabeth's baby leapt for joy in her womb when Mary arrived with her good news. Elizabeth and Zachariah's baby was named John. He became the greatest man that ever lived according to Jesus. We know him much better as John the Baptist.

I am amazed at the contrast between Mary and Elizabeth. We know that Elizabeth was married and older, I guess in her mid to late forties, married to a high priest, her childlessness, was a real burden. We know much less about Mary, she was not married but engaged to Joseph, we assume she was quite young, it is suggested that she was a teenager. So, having a baby before being married would have caused some scandal and cast a shadow over Jesus and his parentage. Yet despite their many differences, they are both righteous before God, chosen to be part of God's plan and willing to undertake that responsibility of sharing their children with God's design for the world.

If God can take at least 15 months to plan the first Christmas, who am I to be critical of people who are just getting ready early? Surely that speaks of the importance and significance of Christmas? God did not act like a last-minute shopper on Christmas Eve with shops about to close, making the most of a bad situation!

*Rev. Martin Wood. The Rectory, Church Lane, Cheriton Bishop EX6 6HY 01647 24119
(Tuesday to Sunday) revwood163@gmail.com*

WEST DOWN EVANGELICAL CHAPEL

Yeoford Road, Cheriton Bishop. EX6 6HG Telephone 01647 24264/24660

December 2017

Sunday 3rd December

11.am Morning Worship
3.pm Family Service with
Rev Godfrey Ball

Sunday 10th December

11.am Morning Worship
3.pm Family Service with
Mr David Hutchings

Sunday 17th December

11.am Morning Worship
3.pm **CAROL Sing-a-long**
Choose and sing your favourite carols

Sunday 24th December

11.am Morning Worship
3.pm **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**
with Rev David Cole

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.15 - 11.00 am
Family Service

Sunday 31st December

11.am Family Service with Communion
No afternoon service

Bible and Prayer meetings on 4th, 11th and 18th at 7.30pm.
No Friends and Neighbours meeting in December

A Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all

January 2018

Sunday 7th January

11.am Morning Worship
3.p,m Family Service with
Rev David Cole

Sunday 14th January

11.am Morning Worship
3.pm Family Service with
Mr John Hawkins

Sunday 21st January

11.am Morning Worship
3.pm Family Service with
Mr John Allen

Sunday 28th January

11.am Morning Worship
3.pm **Christians Together** service with **CHAT**
(Churches Housing Action Team)

Bible Study and Prayer meetings on 8th 15th 22nd 29th at 7.30pm
Friends and Neighbours meeting 18th January 2-4pm in the Chapel

Holy Trinity Yeoford

With Remembrance Sunday celebrated with a thoughtful service taken by Revd. Jenny Francis we now look forward to Christmas with all the fairs and Carol services to come. Preb. Nigel Guthrie will be taking our service of Holy Communion on 10th of December very sadly the last service he will take in Yeoford so take this opportunity to come and wish him well in his new parish. **The Carol Service on 17th December** will again be a community Carol Service in the village hall at 3pm followed by spiced apple juice and mince pies. The crib figures will make a journey around the village to come to the **Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm.**

The Yeoford Church / School/ Pre School Fair is on **2nd December** in the Village Hall From 10 till 12noon.
Cafe company is on Mondays 9-30 till 11am. Come and try your hand at a Christmas craft on **4th December.** **Last cafe before Christmas 11th December.**

December Services: **Sunday 10th** Holy Communion at 9.30 am; **Sunday 17th** Carol Service in the Village Hall at 3pm;
Christmas Eve Crib service at 4pm, Holy Communion 9pm.
January Services: Sunday 14th Holy Communion 9-30, Sunday 28th Holy Communion 9-30.

Carol Price, 01647 24468

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S CHERITON BISHOP AND OTHER CHURCHES IN THE NORTH KENN MISSION COMMUNITY

JANUARY 2018

Sunday 7th

9.30	Whitestone	<i>Epiphany</i> Holy Communion	Revd Martin Wood
9.30	Holcombe Burnell	Holy Communion	Revd Prof Tim Gorringer
11am	Tedburn Methodists	Covenant Service	Revd Martin Wood
3pm	Pathfinder	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Wood
6pm	Cheriton Bishop	Evening Prayer	Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 14th

9.30	Holcombe Burnell	<i>Epiphany 2</i> BCP Communion	Revd Prof Tim Gorringer
9.30	Whitestone	Parish Communion	Revd Martin Wood
11am	Cheriton Bishop	Family Service	Revd Martin Wood
3pm	Pathfinder	Prayer and Fellowship	
3pm	Tedburn St Mary	Tea and Fellowship	Revd Martin Wood

Sunday 21st

9am	Tedburn St Mary	<i>Epiphany 3</i> Holy Communion	Revd Prof Tim Gorringer
9.30	Cheriton Bishop	Parish Communion	Revd Martin Wood
11am	Whitestone	Family Service	Revd Martin Wood
3pm	Pathfinder	Evensong	Revd Martin Wood
6pm	Holcombe Burnell	Evensong	Lay Led

Sunday 28th

8am	Cheriton Bishop	<i>Candlemas</i> Holy Communion	Revd Prof Tim Gorringer
9.30	Whitestone	Christian Unity	Revd Martin Wood
11am	Tedburn Methodists	Christian Unity	
11am	Holcombe Burnell	Family Service	Revd Martin Wood
3pm	Pathfinder	United Service	
3pm	West Down	United Service with Churches Housing Action Team	

EACH THURSDAY

10.30	Pathfinder	Holy Communion.	Revd Martin Wood
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***We invite everyone, including children, to attend all of our services.
Please note that the Spalding Hall is open for the use of the toilets during service times***

National Homeless Sunday

Christians Together of Cheriton Bishop and Crockernwell
are holding a Service at
West Down Chapel on 28th January at 3.00pm

A speaker from CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team)
will be giving a talk on
the work undertaken by this organisation.
Collection for CHAT

Tea and Biscuits at close
Please come and support this worthwhile organisation

What's on in December 2017

Cheriton Bishop Lunch Club – Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month, this month it will be 7th December 2017 and in January it will be Thursday 4th January 2018. If you would like to come along and meet new people please phone; Jean Martin 01647 24586 or ring the Acorn Office on the number below for more details.

Minibus trips to Sainsbury's from Cheriton – Dates are Wednesday 13th December. Help is provided in store and a wheelchair service is also available. We will also help carry your shopping too! The fare is just £4 return.

Teign Valley Memory Café - This month it will be Thursday 14th December. Meetings are held 10.30 – 12.30 at Strawberry Hill, Dunsford on the B3212 – look out for the sign.

Coffee Morning at Teign Valley Community Hall – The Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall 10.30 - 12. Please drop in for a tea or coffee, a slice of homemade cake and meet up with friends, everyone welcome. This month it will be Tuesday December 12th

Dunsford Coffee Morning – Wednesday December 6th at 10.30 in the Village Hall, Dressing room.

What else do we do? – We have a fantastic group of volunteers who help to provide transport to medical social and wellbeing appointments, we can deliver prescriptions, we also loan wheelchairs and equipment to assist you in the home.

Who should you contact - Should you need transport to an appointment, a prescription delivered, equipment hire and any other Acorn service, please telephone the Acorn office 01647 252701 – answering machine available 24 hours.

Acorn Office Telephone number 01647 252701 or email office@acorncommunitysupport.co.uk for further information.

Visit our website at www.acorncommunitysupport.co.uk

Please note Acorn will be closed from December 21st until January 3rd 2018.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year

(N.B. At time of going to press it is unclear when some of the January dates will be so please get in touch with the Acorn Office if you haven't heard the dates elsewhere - Editor).

Acorn Christmas Lunch **Thursday 7th December 12.30 pm**

Roast Turkey with Pigs in Blankets,
Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables,
and Cranberry Sauce.

Followed by Christmas pudding with Custard or Chocolate Brownie with Clotted Cream
Glass of Red or White wine or Soft drink
Tea or Coffee

£15.00

PLEASE PLACE ORDER BY Monday 4th December

(I will need to know your dessert preference)

with Jean 01647 24586

tell her if you need a lift.

January's Acorn Lunch will be Thursday 4th January, 12.30 pm. At present the menu is still a mystery but as always it will be delicious!

Gardening Club

It is with sadness that I have to report the recent death of Tony Milward. Although his last few years were spent in Hatherleigh Care Village, Tony was previously a resident of Crockernwell and renowned for his gardening skills. Anybody looking at our cups will see his name many times, especially on the vegetable cup, sweet pea cup and the most points in all classes at the Summer Show cup. I remember him giving talks on growing Sweet Peas, opening his garden for Open Garden days, and many of his suggestions on running shows when on the Horticultural Society committee are still being followed.

The December meeting is not only on a different week of the month but in a different venue. Meeting on Monday December 4th at 7.30pm we shall be making Seasonal Decorations in the Village Hall. Not only Seasonal Decorations but also Seasonal Refreshments will be available and members are asked to bring a small plate of goodies to share if they can. If they can't, still come anyway because experience tells us there will be more than sufficient. Non-members and older children are also welcome to join us in making wreaths and other greenery based decorations.

The January meeting will be our annual quiz with Drewsteignton Gardening Club, taking place at 7.30pm on Monday 15th January. We shall be back in the Spalding Hall again for this. Just come and enjoy it – you do not need to bring a team, we are all randomly allocated into one team or another by drawing lots on arrival. As usual we shall be serving our guests with coffee and cake.

Those who ordered seeds are invited to collect them at 1, Woodpecker Way, on Saturday 6th January between 10.30 and 12md. (Courtesy of Jean Martin). If you want your seeds earlier then contact me to arrange collection and payment.

Happy Christmas,
Janet Jeffery 24414

West Country Embroiderers in December and January

**Tuesdays 12th December - 12.30 - 16.00 and January 9th - 13.30 - 16.00,
at Cheriton Bishop Village Hall**

As 2017 draws to a close, this month we have a longer meeting with a sharing lunch and other party activities. Our membership is nearing its maximum but if you wish to join us in 2018, please contact Nicky as soon as possible. Last month, twelve members had an unforgettable experience in Southern India. From block printing workshops, weaving, traditional embroidery and shopping, we returned home buzzing with new ideas and inspirations. I am hoping to link the techniques learnt at 'Painting the Town' Day school to create an 'Indian' masterpiece over the winter.

Our New Year starts with a talk by Carol McFadzean on Charlotte Treadwin, Lace Entrepreneur. She was born near Dulverton and as a young girl was apprenticed to a dressmaker and later learned to make lace. She married a watchmaker and moved to Cathedral Yard in Exeter where she established a lace making business and gained several royal commissions.

Our new website is live, check us out on wcecheritonbishop. New members are always welcome, pop in and see if WCE is for you. Some members are very experienced embroiderers, others are complete novices but we all have a common interest in Textile Art and embroidery. Please contact Nicky Westcott 01835 82517 or westcottnick@gmail.com or complete the Enquiry form on line.

Elaine Clark

CHERITON BISHOP NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

BE SAFE AND BE SEEN

Whilst out walking or jogging in the lanes around, most of which are unlit or poorly lit, during dusk, dark evenings and early mornings, these are dangerous places to be and great care is required. The wearing of dark clothing these days does not help to be seen by drivers. Verges do not exist in most cases. As we know vehicles tend to be driven too fast in the lanes, Church Lane being an example. To help to be seen the wearing of high visibility reflective clothing plus reflective attachments to bags and back packs will help greatly and save a dangerous situation developing. BE SEEN. It could be one of the best investments you can make and it does not cost much.

CHRISTMAS TIME BE SAFE

Its that time of year when we do not want to receive a unwelcome visitor. To prevent thieves from having a good haul over the festive period your attention is drawn to the following :

In the home avoid advertising by putting presents on window-sills or where they can be seen from outside such as under the Christmas tree. Its a smash and grab or forced entry situation. Sheds and outbuildings used to hide larger presents must have good security. Lock external doors and windows at all times even if just going out for a few moments. When out and about shopping don't help opportunist thieves to relieve you of purchases left exposed in the car, always out of sight in the locked boot. The same applies when you arrive home from shopping, or from visiting someone to deliver or collect presents, always lock the car even if it's only for a few seconds before you return.

Also take great care when withdrawing money from cash machines, watch that no one is close or watching, hide your pin number and if you suspect the machine has been interfered with do not use it but report it to the bank or store.

Thieves are watching for the unwary and it only takes them a few seconds!!!

AND

Fortunately we live in relatively quiet villages but things do happen at times. We all need to be observant, vigilant and keep our eyes open. See inside of the front cover of the Newsletter for emergency phone numbers and details.

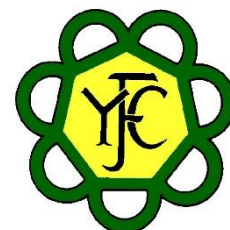
LASTLY

Your local Neighbourhood Watch wish all in Cheriton Bishop and Crockernwell a Happy Christmas and all the Very Best for 2018. May it be a safe and secure year for all.

Neighbourhood Watch contact - Jean Martin - 01647 24586

Dennis Milton

Cheriton and Tedburn YFC



This month has been a very busy one for Cheriton and Tedburn YFC. We've recently been to Raceworld where everyone had a very enjoyable evening, and it is official, George Taylor is our fastest member on the racetrack! We've also had a club social of Pumpkin Carving, where all members carved their pumpkins as inventively as possible, and then our club leaders attended later in the evening to judge our artwork. The pumpkins all looked amazing, and congratulations to Laura Putt who won our pumpkin carving competition. The pumpkins were then displayed at our excellent bonfire evening on the 2nd November in Cheriton Bishop. Thank you to everyone who came to support us at our bonfire night, I hope you all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we hope that we will see you all again next year!

The club has also spent two days at Gray's cider, picking up the autumn apples to kick start our charity fundraising for our chosen charity this year: Dementia UK. The club are looking forward to revisiting Gray's later this month to see the rest of the journey for the apples and see how the cider is made. We have also had one of our very talented speakers, Dan Grist, representing both Cheriton & Tedburn Club and Haldon Group at the County round of the debating competition. Dan did extremely well and has been chosen to represent Devon at the South West Area round, well done Dan! Several of our members have been down to Plymouth this month attending the county ice skating evening where everyone had a great time.

Upcoming, we have our **Pasty and Pint Quiz on the 24th November at Cheriton Bishop Village Hall, 7:30pm for 8pm start**, teams of 4-6, £6 per person. Everyone is welcome, and it would be great to see you all there. Several of our club members are also due to be representing Haldon group at the county competition of netball and rugby, so good luck to our club sports stars taking part in the competition.

Additionally, we have our **Christmas Bingo at Tedburn Village Hall on the 14th December, 7pm, eyes down at 7.30 pm**, where there will be lots of prizes to be won. So if you fancy your chances at taking home a dinner, or picking up a few of those last-minute Christmas presents, please come along! We also have an evening of skittles for the members to play against our advisory coming up, and are looking forward to our club Christmas meal. We also have lots of our members attending the County Christmas ball.

We are looking to have our Summer Ball next year and are looking to have the event in a marquee once again. If anyone is also having an event next summer where they would consider sharing the marquee, please let me know.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Louise Putt , Secretary.
07792518439

Cheriton Bishop Walking Group

As we come to the end of the year, it is perhaps a good time to look back over the past 12 months...

We changed the date to the first Sunday of the month and had a new start time of 10.00, meeting at the YFC centre. This has allowed us to have a longer walk if wished and still time to meet for a quick drink in the Thatch, or another pub. Additionally we introduced a Wednesday evening walk on the longer evenings. These changes appear to have been well received from the comments made and general attendance, although we would always welcome more people (and dogs) of all ages and abilities.

Over the past year we have travelled all over Dartmoor as far as Merrivale and Burrator and even a longer trek to Cranmere Pool, the site of the first Dartmoor Letterbox. On days where the weather has been less favourable we stayed nearer to home and have explored all areas around the Teign Valley.

The dates for the walks for the next 3 months are as follows: **Dec 3rd, Jan 7th 2018, Feb 4th** .

The locations for the walks will be announced nearer the date on our Facebook page and by email to all those on the circulation list. Details are also on the village web site under the walking group. There are also reports and photos of our walks on the Facebook page. We will try to be fairly adventurous, but with the winter approaching and the weather more variable, it was felt that it would be best to decide as the date approaches!

For anyone who has an interest in joining us and is not already on the list, please email me at j.whitehead53@btinternet.com and I will add your name. You will then be bombarded.... Sorry, kept up to date, with details of our planned, and several extra walks which are often at short notice if there is a particularly good weather day!

Finally, it would be great to receive suggestions for future walks or indeed any suggestions for the walking group. We look forward to seeing you and welcoming new people on our walks.

Jon and Dennis

TEDBURN ST. MARY W.I.

At our Meeting on the 7th November, we were all happy to enjoy a very entertaining talk by Celia Moore who now lives locally, after having a very varied and exciting life at home and abroad. She has just had her very first novel published, called: "FOX HALT FARM" and was eager to tell us just how it was achieved, the joy, the pitfalls and all!

On the afternoon of 15th November, a number of our W.I. Ladies spent a most delightful hour or two with the children at Tedburn St. Mary Primary School, helping them to fill shoe-boxes to be delivered out to the deprived children in Moldova.....to give them a little happiness this Christmas.

This is a most enjoyable annual event for us in the W.I. and we all love assisting. This year it was joyous to see the older children guiding the younger ones around the mountains of toys, pencils, crayons and stationery, toiletries, many woolly hats, scarves and oh so many generous items which had been just SO generously donated by our local residents of Tedburn St. Mary. About 60 boxes in all were lovingly packed and will soon be on their way, across the seas to Moldova.

W.I. Report continued....



Our W.I. Skittles Team is on a winning streak at the moment! They are all playing very well and, dare we say, VERY energetically, in winning their first round in the league, against Christow!

It was mentioned, at our November Meeting, about a Chinese Lantern, which was found in a farmyard on the edge of Tedburn, 10 yards from a barn - full of straw - and close to a cattle-shed, during the Fireworks Festivities time. It was unlit but there was a wire at the bottom of the lantern and it could have caused damage to property or even maimed livestock or roaming wildlife. SO, we are asking - To Whom It May Concern - PLEASE be more thoughtful in the future when sending them off.

The W.I. Committee Members are looking forward to our December Meeting when we will be, hopefully, 'wined and dined and entertained' by the all the Members of our W.I.!!!

We warmly welcomed 2 new Members in to our November Meeting and if YOU would like to join us, our Meetings are held at 7.30pm. every FIRST TUESDAY of the Month, in 'The Tedburn St. Mary Village Hall'. For any further information about us, please contact: Jean Wise (President) on : 01647 61101 or Jane Burrow (Secretary) on: 07814 659526 or Di Awcott, in Venny Tedburn, on: 01363 773512.

News from Elsewhere

'SING NOEL' Christmas concerts with Dunsford Singers

Conducted by Tim Pithers. Sunday 3rd December (with the Dunsford Junior Choir) 4pm in the Village Hall (tickets limited). Saturday 9th December 7.30pm in the Teign Valley Community Hall with newly formed close harmony group 'Grace Notes' with Daphne West. Tickets £7 from choir members or 252519 to include seasonal refreshments. All proceeds to The Dame Hannah Rogers Trust, the local charity supporting children and adults with a wide range of disabilities.

Big Breakfast/Brunch and Christmas Bazaar at Longdown Village hall on Saturday 9th December, serving from 10am to 1pm

Families are welcome.

We have home made cakes, festive presents,
jigsaws, crafts and books for sale.

Further information from 01392 811315

Swanaford Vineyard Open Day

On Sunday 10th December, we would like to invite people to come along to the new barn at Swanaford vineyard and see what we've been doing over the past five years. There'll be an opportunity to walk around the vineyard (winter dormant though it will be), plus a chance to try – or even buy – a bottle of sparkling or still wine made from grapes grown in the Teign valley. We will be open from 11am till 3pm and dogs on leads are welcome. Wellies will be a good idea! Find us down Swanaford Road, EX6 7HG – please access us from the B3193, it'll be signposted from there.

Swanaford Vineyard, Swanaford Road, Bridford, EX6 7HG.

Cheriton Bishop Community Primary School

Snippets from the Classroom and Beyond

No 197 December 2017/January 2018



The last newsletter of the year always presents a bit of a challenge in that one has to bear in mind it covers both December and January and sometimes it's quite difficult to ferret out what might be happening that far ahead. This edition is no different to previous years.

Well, what has happened in the last month? The most striking occurrence has been the growth of numbers of people attending the annual Remembrance Day rituals. The scouts continue to play a major part in Act of Remembrance at the war memorial in Cheriton Cross. They plant a cross and poppy for each of those named on the memorial, eight in the First World War and one in the Second. It is good that they are brought into the service. I'm sure it helps them to understand the sacrifices that have been made for all of us. The service in the Village Hall that followed the ceremony at the memorial was equally well attended. It's worthy of note that, in his sermon, John Tutton reminded us all that there is much more to remembrance. We have to think about those left behind, the war widows, the families and those that have survived but who have received terrible wounds, both physical and mental. The school also had their Remembrance Assembly on Friday 10th, gathering at the Gazebo in the playground which had been decorated with poppies.

The annual Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall was an impressive affair, It is a festival that never fails to affect me.

As well as smaller private bonfires, the Young Farmers Club had their Bonfire Night on 2nd of October in the field opposite Coxland Farm. I believe it was quite a success. I didn't hear of any damage as a result of the fireworks!!!! The Churchyard Clean Up on 4th was another success with a well attended group of good people struggling to overcome the overgrowth of nature – they were successful. A handsome lunch was provided for the workers to restock the energy levels for the afternoon's work. Well done to all concerned and a big thank you to Pauline who supplied Mike, a tractor and a trailer to take away the debris from the clean up.

The Annual Book Sale took place in the Village Hall with Persis presiding. Perhaps this is where I must highlight the prodigious amount of work Persis does in support of village activities as she has been doing for a good many years. Thank you Persis and a special thank you from the school for donating the proceeds of the Book Sale to them, all £406.00 of it! The school plan to use the money to update and refresh the school library during next term. Did you know that Persis ran the first Village Book Sale thirty five years ago! That's even longer than I have written Snippets!

One thing I have had absolutely no word about is the Hort Soc – sorry, Gardening Club – Annual Dinner. I assume that it was a great success, as all of the great organised feasts in this village are. The good ladies of the village are unsurpassed in the business of producing tables heavily laden with superb food. (STOP PRESS – I have now heard that the dinner was up to its normal super standard!!!).

You will notice that the accent on the forthcoming week for some in school is on cycling, with the week concentrating on road safety for some and the standard Bikeability training taking place. Class 1 is going to catch the older children up in due course – they now have special Balance Bikes. These will be teaching them to balance safely on their bicycles. (Hmmmmmm.....I once bought a mountain bike from the US Navy Exchange in Mayport, Florida and brought it back with the aim of improving my fitness! It didn't last long. The Devon hills soon put paid to my pathetic efforts and I ended up giving it to the scouts for their jumble sale!! – confessions of a sinner) It is good that the children are being given this cycling tuition. The roads can be quite hazardous for both cyclists and motorists when the two are mixed together.

On to Fund Raising. The school raised a magnificent sum at their Children in Need Day when they were given licence for a non-uniform day. They also sold sausage baps to boost the total up to £143.48, and

all this was organised by the school's Student Council. Well done to all involved with a special thank you to Oinkers at Drakes Farm Shop who kindly donated the sausages.

The PTFA have been active again and produced a special tea Towel bearing self-portraits of the children. What's more, the towels were available in three different colours. The orders have been sent in and should be with the purchasers in time for Christmas. The PTFA is also running a couple of film nights soon to give the parentage the opportunity to do their Christmas shopping in peace. The film nights will be from 1530 to 1800 on 23rd November and 6th December. You will also notice that the PTFA are organising the Class Christmas parties which is quite a big task. Well done and thank you to all those parents who give of their time to provide these activities for the children. Without you life would be a duller place.

On then, to the school calendar which now looks like this:

20th Nov – Road Safety week
20th Nov – Bikeability Y5/6 (all week)
22nd Nov – Tag Rugby Y5/6
23rd Nov – PTFA Film Night – 1530-1800
29th Nov – Swimming Gala
1st Dec – Christmas Fayre – 1400
6th Dec – PTFA Film Night – 1530-1800
13th Dec – PTFA – Class Parties – Lunch & PM
13th Dec – Dress Rehearsal
14th Dec – Christmas Service – 1000
15th Dec – Christmas Service – 1400 & 1800
18th Dec – Pantomime at The Corn Exchange
19th Dec – Christingle Service – 0930
19th Dec – Christmas Lunch
20th Dec – Christmas Jumper Day
20th Dec – End of Autumn Term
20th Dec – PTFA Carol Singing – 1800 – The Old Thatch

Christmas Holiday

4th Jan 2018 – Start of Spring Term

You will notice that we don't have a programme for the Spring Term just yet. It's a wee bit too early to confirm the activities this far ahead.

Mariners Away were asked, at fairly short notice, to provide entertainment at the Finch Foundry Open Day on 18th of this month. By golly it was cold, even with the heat from the blacksmiths' furnaces. The open day was to mark St Clement's Day. He is the patron saint of Metalworkers and Blacksmiths. Yes, I know, that is nothing to do with sea shanties – but we were asked to go!!! The appearance at the Baring-Gould festival in Okehampton went well and was very enjoyable. Our next appearance will be on the 25th of this month at Sampford Courtenay Village hall to help them raise funds for the hall. We've got one private function on 8th December and then it is off to Newlyn on 15th. The latter does promise to be a great experience!

As I noted last month, Heritage services from Okehampton Station have ceased for the year and *the Train to Christmas Town* is very much the focus. Check the opening hours of the Tearoom before you go up there, as they will tend to vary as the Christmas train activity increases.

It just remains for me to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Don't forget that Christmas started with the birth of that baby boy some two thousand years ago. Have a super Christmas holiday break and we'll see all the children back and raring to go in the New Year.

PGR