

CRANHAM VILLAGE MAGAZINE

With Cranham Parish and Benefice News and Information

DECEMBER '23



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*Any views and opinions expressed in the Cranham Magazine are
attributable only to individual contributors*

Advertisements in this magazine do not imply recommendation

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A Letter from The Clergy



'Life.....interrupted'

As I sit at my desk writing this letter, I can see a doe resting contentedly in my garden. She reminds me of the importance of stopping and 'taking a beat', as they say, which is true at any time of year but certainly in the time of Advent and Christmas. There is so much going on around here! (*That is why we are encouraging people to take time out and come to an Advent Quiet Day in Painswick on Friday 8th December, to explore 'The Poetry of Advent'... but I digress! (see page 14 for poster)*).

For my family and I, this Christmas will be our first Christmas in the benefice, and I'm really excited about that. Unsurprisingly, I love Christmas! However, let's face it, Christmas can be pretty daunting. At this time of year the temptation for many of us is to put your head down and plough through all the nativities and festivities, concerts and carols, shopping and wrapping, cooking, cleaning, eating and washing up... Until that special moment *after* Christmas. That moment when you close the door and exhale with relief, knowing you can finally 'relax' after all the costly busyness. Surely there's something wrong about that.

I have recently been reflecting on that first Christmas when, amidst all the busyness of getting ready to have an unplanned baby, a young girl and her husband-to-be set off on a journey to Bethlehem for a census. It would have been the last thing they would have needed at the time, I'm sure.

And yet it was all part of God's incredible plan. Centuries before, prophets had foretold what would come to pass. In countries far away, 'wise men' would see a star and commit to follow it on a journey that would take them years to complete. In fields nearby, exhausted shepherds at work would stop what they were doing to go and find a baby: Jesus, born to save us from all that is wrong in the world.

The story of the very first Christmas is an incredible one, one that interrupted the routine and busyness of many peoples' lives. If you read the Bible and learn more about the life of the baby as he grows up, you soon see that God's plan was to interrupt all of our lives, to save us, and the plan to do so is ongoing.

So as I continue to experience lots of daunting 'firsts' here and reflect on what God is doing, I wonder how you will allow God to interrupt your life, your usual plans this month? Perhaps you might put aside that stack of paperwork for now and come and sing carols. Or just sit for five minutes with a cup of tea and think about the people you love, and give God a quiet thank you for them.

However you spend your time this month, I hope and pray you will have a really Happy Christmas, and experience it - perhaps for the first time - as a wonderful sign of allowing the God of love to interrupt our daily lives to show us something better: the good news of his Son who was born to interrupt and save us. I also pray our faith will grow, and may we continue to look to and trust in God for more interruption to come. Amen.

Revd Sarah Haslam

Worship in Cranham - December 2023

Sunday 3rd 11.00am	Holy Communion & Baptism	Sarah
	Sidesman Anthea Glibbery Readers Alastair Sammon TBA	
Sunday 10th 11.00am	Holy Communion	Andrew
	Sidesman Lindsay Burtenshaw Readers Lindsay Burtenshaw Nicky Overs	
Sunday 17th 2.30pm	Village Carol Concert Village Hall with Choir & Orchestra	
6.30pm	Evensong (BCP)	Sue
	Sidesman Sylvia Ardron Readers Sue Williams Richard Tyson	
Christmas Eve 4.00pm	Crib Service Posada Families are welcomed back	Sarah
	Sidesman Julie Berry Readers TBA	
Christmas Day 11.00am	Holy Communion	Helen
	Sidesman Tom Daltry Readers Tom Daltry Helen Daltry	
Saturday 30th 6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	Sarah
	Sidesman Phil Stick Readers TBA	
Sunday 31st 11.00am	Holy Communion With Sheepscombe	Helen
	Sidesman Sarah Taylor Readers TBA Linda de Cossart	

Please see pages 6 for other Benefice Service's

Church Flowers

During ADVENT No Flowers

Dec Flowers for Christmas & 31st Dec Nicole W Ann G & helpers

7th & 14th Jan '24 Gillian Smith



Church Cleaning

2nd December Beryl Berry

9th December Nicola Overs

16th December Vic Soutar

30th December Sylvia Ardron

6th January '24 Sue Stick



Refreshments will be served after the following services:

3rd December 11.00am Holy Communion & Baptism

10th December 11.00am Holy Communion

23rd December 4.00pm Crib Service

24th December 11.00am Holy Communion

Sat 30th December 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols

Sun 31st December 11.00am Holy Communion



**SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS
AND CAROLS**



SATURDAY 30th DECEMBER 2023

Cranham Church

6:30pm

Please come and join us

Refreshments to follow the service

Benefice Services - December 2023

For detailed Cranham services please see page 4

3rd December 1st Sunday of Advent

11.00am	Pitchcombe	Benefice Holy Communion	David & Mike
11.00am	Cranham	Holy Communion & Baptism	Sarah

Weds 6th & Fri 8th December

6th	Richmond	Holy Communion	Andrew & Mary
8th 11am - 3pm	Painswick	Advent Quiet Day	David

10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Edge	Holy Communion	David
10.00am	Painswick	Family Worship & Christingle	Paul
11.00am	Cranham	Holy Communion	Andrew
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Morning Worship	Mike

Weds 13th, Fri 15th & Sat 16th December

13th 4pm	Richmond	Carol Service	Sarah
15th 7pm	Harescombe	Carol Service	Sarah
16th 2pm	Painswick	Jesus Rocks	Liz

17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.00am	Painswick	Holy Communion	Andrew
11.00am	Pitchcombe	Carol Service	Sarah
5.30pm	Edge	Carol Service with Choir	Mike
6.00pm	Sheepscombe	Carol Service	Sarah
6.30pm	Cranham	Evensong (BCP)	Sue

Mon 18th, Wed 20th & Fri 22nd December

18th 2.30pm	Richmond	Carols & Tea	Sarah, Aaron Wright & M&O
20th	Resthaven	Holy Communion	Mary
22nd 6.30pm	Painswick	Carol Service	Sarah

Please see page 8 Benefice Christmas Services

Revd. Sarah Haslam (Rector) Revd. Andrew Leach (Associate Priest)	Mr. Mike Campbell Mrs. Liz Eden Mrs. Sue Hartley Worship leader in training: Mrs Karen Riding	Revd. Canon Michael Irving Revd. Paul Kenchington Revd. David Newell Revd. David Reynish Revd. Helen Sammon
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CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT OUR PARISH CHURCH

A Very Happy Christmas and a Good New Year

Everyone is welcome at any of the Services in Cranham Church and particularly at the Services around Christmas

Do come and join us:

4.00pm Sunday 24th December

Christmas Eve – Crib Service – The Posada families return to Church.

11.00am Saturday 25th December

Christmas Morning – Revd. Helen. A family service
with communion for those who wish to take it.



6.30pm Saturday 30th December

Nine Lessons & Carols – Revd. Sarah

[Posada families – We have two Nativity families which travel from Inn to Inn (house to house in and around Cranham) on their journey to Christmas. They will begin their journey at the Advent Carol Service on the 3rd December and complete it on the 24th December at the Crib service.]*

Benefice Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

9.30am	Pitchcombe	Holy Communion (BCP)	Sarah
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Holy Communion	Andrew
4.00pm	Painswick	Crib Service	Pam Swain
4.00pm	Cranham	Crib Service	Vic Soutar
4.00pm	Sheepscombe	Crib Service	Karen R
11.00pm	Painswick	Holy Communion	Andrew

Christmas Day

9.30am	Sheepscombe	Family Worship	Mike
10.00am	Pitchcombe	Christmas Worship	Liz
10.00am	Painswick	Family Communion	Sarah
10.00am	<u>Harescombe</u> with Edge	Holy Communion	Andrew
11.00am	Cranham	Holy Communion	Helen

Saturday 30th December

6.30pm	Cranham	Nine Lessons & Carols	Sarah
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31st December - 1st Sunday of Christmas

10.00am	Painswick	Beacon Praise	Liz & Paul
11.00am	<u>Edge</u> with Pitchcombe & Harescombe	Holy Communion	Andrew
11.00am	<u>Cranham</u> with Sheepscombe	Holy Communion	Helen

www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

POSADA!

Just a reminder of what Posada means "In Spain & Spanish speaking countries: an inn or place of accommodation for travellers and in Mexico: each of a series of visits traditionally paid to different friends before Christmas, representing Mary & Joseph's search for a lodging in Bethlehem." From the Shorter Oxford Dictionary.

Christmas is coming ... !

Advent Carol service Sunday 3rd December at 11am

The Posada Family will once again be looking for places to stay overnight.

If you would like to host the Posada for a night please contact Laura Chilcott:

Email: cranhamchurch@gmail.com **WhatsApp/call:** 07854 917753

You do not need to have children at home to host!

What is the Posada *(see also bottom of page 8 opposite)?*

The Posada is a custom that started in Spain or Mexico at least 500 years ago when people visited each others' homes to bless their Nativity scene. They would start on 16th December and travel around until Christmas Eve; 9 days, to represent the 9 months that Mary was pregnant with Jesus. Each night they would go to a different home in a different part of the village. When they arrived at their destination they would knock on the door and ask for a room. The head of the house would say he had no room, just like the innkeeper in Bethlehem, but eventually he would let them in. Everybody would go inside, light a candle besides the nativity scene and bless it.

How do we do it in Cranham?

As many previous 'host families' are aware; Cranham now has 2 nativity sets that we call the Posada. Throughout advent these move from home to home, staying overnight before being passed on to find another resting place.

When does it all happen?

We start with the first families receiving the Posada at the Advent carol service at 11am on Sunday 3rd December.

After travelling from home to home each night they return to the church in time for the Crib Service on 24th December at 4pm.

If we host the Posada, what exactly will we be doing?

The Posada families are delightful wooden nativity scenes. They will arrive, ready for you to set up, in their own box with the Posada prayer and an advent candle for you to light for the night(s) you host the family.

Please join us for this special service setting the Posada on its journey.

Extracts from The Messenger – December 2023

Christmas message from Bishop Robert

Saint John proclaims that the light, the word of God in Jesus Christ, shines in the darkness.



I don't know about you, but as I look at our world at the end of this year in Israel and Gaza, in the Ukraine, in the lives of so many struggling in this and all nations, the darkness seems often very dark indeed. But John goes on, 'the darkness did not overcome it'. This is the good news that we tell in our Advent preparation and Christmas celebration as we join with John the Baptist in bearing witness to the light, the baby born in the stable to live among us, who will open his arms on the cross, face darkness and death, and live! We have seen how St John goes on to say God's glory, 'full of grace and truth'.

This is why I pray that even as we face the darkness of this winter, we may celebrate with every fibre of our being and all the resources we can muster the wonder of this season. Not setting aside all that troubles us but bringing it to the heart of what we do so the world may know that in Jesus Christ it is love that will win, and that this is our greatest and surest hope.

May God grant you joy in your celebration as we tell again the good news of the Word made flesh, of the birth of the promised one who brings life to us all.

Follow the Star: Join the Song Churches across the Diocese of Gloucester are looking forward to welcoming everyone to services and events this Christmas, many of which will be filled with wonderful music.



The Church of England's Christmas campaign, Follow the Star: Join the Song, highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany. Singing and hearing carols can enable people of all ages to get in touch with the wonder and the truth of the Christmas story.

Visit **A Church Near You** to find details of Christmas services and events in your area. Here, you can search for:

Christingles – a popular family service where you decorate an orange and light a candle to think about Christian themes

Advent carols – traditional carols and Bible readings

Crib services with a retelling of the Christmas story

Christmas tree festivals or tree-decorating events

Midnight mass – a late-night communion service

Christmas Day celebrations – join in and celebrate the birth of Jesus with your worshipping community

Your local church would be delighted to welcome you along to share in the joy of the season! Visit: **achurchnearyou.com**



Keep connected with news from the Diocese of Gloucester

Every Friday, get a free WhatsApp message with our top three inspiring stories, videos or events, straight to your phone. Visit:

**[gloucester.anglican.org/sign-up-for-
onedioocese-whatsapp-messages](http://gloucester.anglican.org/sign-up-for-onedioocese-whatsapp-messages)**

Help the homeless with Gloucester City Mission's winter appeal

Each year, Gloucester City Mission gives out 750 pairs of men's and women's underwear to people who are homeless, costing the charity £6,000. Their Undies Under the Tree appeal asks if you can donate a new pair of boxer shorts or briefs, size 8 to 14, that they can then distribute to rough sleepers or through their Restore Clothes Bank.

Leave your donations before Christmas Eve under the Giving Tree in the Eastgate Shopping Centre or at participating churches and schools.

Visit **gloscitymission.org.uk** to find out more and for ways to donate.

Can you host a meal this December?

To Stroud-based charity The Long Table, the real magic of Christmas lies in sharing a meal. Host a meal in your worshipping community between 9th and 17th December and, together, all the meals shared will create The Longest Table. All the events will build connections and communities, as well as raise money so that even more people are fed. To host your event, sign up to receive your resource pack: thelongtableonline.com/the-longest-table

Top tips for a greener Christmas

1. Choose natural decorations. Holly, ivy trails, pinecones, rosehips.... Take a bag on a walk and see what you can find.
2. Use old Christmas cards to make your own gift tags.
3. Create homemade gifts, like biscuits, or buy gifts from a charity shop – you'll be amazed at what can be found.
4. Give the gift of time. Gift cooking for someone once a month for a year, taking them for a coffee, babysitting, cleaning....
5. Recycle wrap right. To find out if your wrapping paper is not recyclable, do the 'scrunch' test. If it springs back, it isn't recyclable. And always remove the sticky tape before recycling.

For more tips, visit A Rocha's website: arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

Christmas Carol Service at Saul Junction

Gloucester and Sharpness Canal 9th December, 6pm to 8pm

Waterways Chaplaincy and Stroudwater Team of Churches invite you to 'follow the star' to a canalside, traditional Christmas Carol Service, with the Frampton Silver Band. Mulled wine and mince pies. Come by boat or car. Please bring a torch.

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The Christ-mouse family trail

Gloucester Cathedral 9th December to 7th January 2024

Join the Cathedral mice as they tell the story of the first Christmas. Find where they are hiding around the building and collect your prize once you've found them all!

Handel's Messiah

Tewkesbury Abbey 16th December 2022, 7pm

Handel's Messiah sung by the Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum. Tickets £15-£20. To book: ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/gloucestershire/tewkesbury-abbey/handel-messiah/e-bklkgd

Family Crib Service

Gloucester Cathedral 23rd or 24th December, 2.30pm

The Family Crib Services are some of the Cathedral's most popular – expect beautiful music, traditional readings and plenty of festive cheer, all within the beautiful surroundings of the Cathedral. All are welcome to this informal family service.

For more information on all the services and events at Gloucester Cathedral this Christmas, visit: gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/advent-and-christmas-2023

Thinking of coming to church for the first time, or the first time in a long time, this Christmas? Visit: churchofengland.org/faith-calling/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/what-expect-church-christmas

Have a Happy Christmas!

Have your say

Visit Facebook **Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter [@glosdioc](https://twitter.com/glosdioc), view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website gloucester.anglican.org

These extracts are from The Messenger, a monthly communication produced by diocesan communications office at Church House, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY. The full 'Messenger' is available on www.gloucester.anglican.org and can be emailed to all parish and church representatives who request it. The extracts printed here are provided by Church House and published without alteration and therefore do not necessarily reflect the views of the Cranham magazine editorial team.

The Poetry of Advent

From Rowan
Williams to
Laurie Lee: A
Guided Journey
with the Revd
David Reynish

Advent Quiet Day
at St Mary's, Painswick.
Friday 8th December,
11am - 3pm. Tickets
priced £15, to include
refreshments and lunch

For more info and to reserve your place, please email
beaconbeneficeoffice@gmail.com or call 07833727701.
No later than Monday 4th December.

Brimpsfield & Mid-Cotswold Garden Society

Christmas is a time for traditions, and the subject of the talk at our December coffee morning meeting, 'Folklore and More', should help to get us in the mood for this most traditional festival. Come along to Brimpsfield Village Hall on Saturday 2nd December to find out more; coffee and home-made cake on offer from 10.30am with the talk starting at 11.00am. Everyone is welcome!



Christmas of course is also a time for giving and receiving presents, which sometimes take the form of plants to brighten up our indoor space. Houseplants differ in their requirements, but in general they want to be kept relatively cool, away from radiators and draughts, and don't need too much watering at this time of year. Even those that don't normally like to be in bright sunlight can tolerate being near a window in the darker months, but remember not to leave them on a windowsill when the curtains are closed at night; it will be too cold for them there.

If your Christmas cactus has no buds on it, check that it is not receiving any artificial light at night; it needs a few hours of total darkness to make it flower. Should you receive potted cyclamen, remember to water them from the base, as the leaves will rot if they get wet; they will go dormant in summer, but can be brought back into flower for next winter. The same is true of amaryllis; last year's bulb can be re-potted now, fed and watered, and should bloom again for you.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful new year!

Fix my Street

website to report potholes and fly tipping etc

<https://www.fixmystreet.com>



Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester

Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester is a local charity which provides friendship, practical and emotional support to families with young children within our communities. Parenting is not always easy, and to have the support from a trained volunteer is invaluable to many experiencing a difficult time in their lives.

Our next free volunteer training course starts in February 2024, so if you would like to start the New Year in a positive way, have 2-3 hours a week or even a month to spare, and could share with someone else your parenting experiences please get in touch.

Parent quote "Home-Start is a fantastic charity, was really there for me at times of need. The volunteers are well trained and are really handy to have around especially when your child has extra needs, sometimes that different face makes all the difference. Thank you very much!"

For more details and to apply, please see our website www.homestartsd.org or email: Enquiries@homestartsd.org or call the office 01453 297470.



CRANHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Woodchester Mansion - An unfinished Masterpiece

An illustrated talk by Liz Davenport

Cranham Village Hall

Thursday 7th December 2023 at 7.45pm

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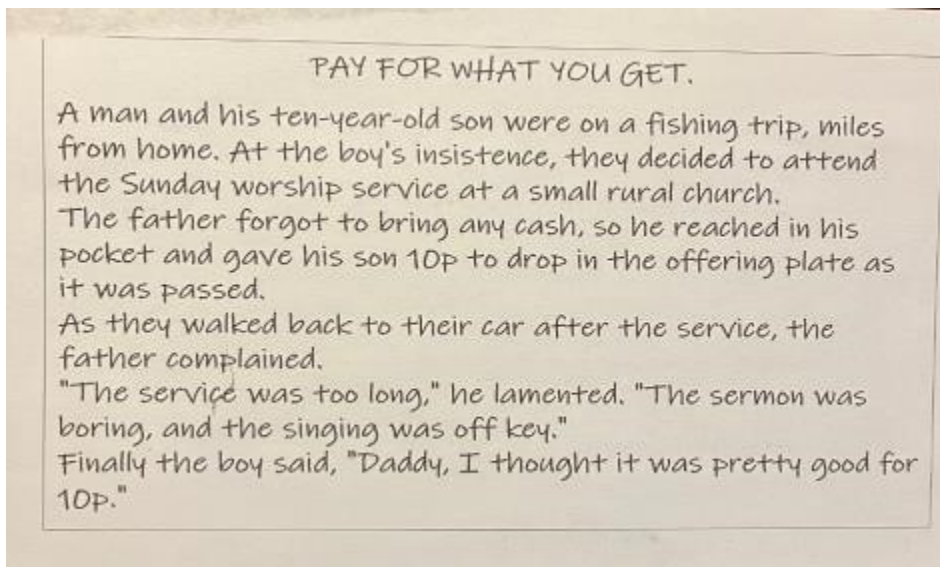
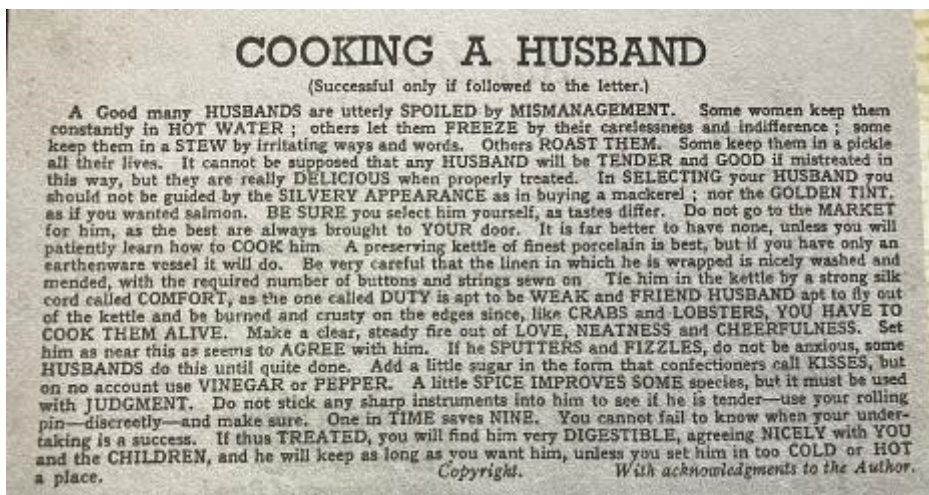
Members Free/ Visitors £3.50

Refreshments are included All welcome

It is amazing what turns up when one is forced to empty bookshelves.

I had a roof leak over the kitchen bookcase and whilst drying out the damp books I came across these two gems!

Beryl 🍷



Cranham Common News

It's common work party season! By the time you are reading this we will have completed our first work party of the winter season. Thank you to everyone who joined in, every pair of hands helps.

The next ones are in the new year.

Sunday 14th January 9.30am - 12.30pm

Saturday 3rd February 9.30am - 12.30pm

Sunday 25th February 9.30am - 12.30pm

Everyone is welcome to join the work parties, we can find jobs for all ages and levels of fitness. They are very enjoyable social mornings as well as being rewarding for contributing to the maintenance of the common. So, for anyone new to the village, come and join us and make some new friends.

Details of the tasks for each date and where to meet will be sent out on Cranham email and Facebook nearer the time.

Happy Christmas from the Common Management Committee

Liz Hayden
CCMC chair
Chair.ccmc@gmail.com

Cranham Parish Council website

lots of info including the minutes of meetings

<https://cranhampc.org.uk/>

SPEAKEASY – THE END

The Great Cranham Speakeasy is over. Someone ratted.

A cop, looking remarkably like Pauhla Whitaker, burst in to pursue two seemingly harmless and rather beautiful broads, looking remarkably like Nick Ryan and Christopher Gouldsmith.

Hiding between a large moustache and wielding a truncheon, the cop ruthlessly tried to stop the consumption of our illicit hooch. Cranham drank on regardless, placed their bets on the roulette, made wild and inaccurate guesses in the photo quiz and ended up by dancing the night away after a magnificent Charleston demo by Len Eldridge and Hazel Roberts.

It was a wonderful evening. Thanks so much to everyone who supported us, and the many wonderful volunteers who pitched in to make the evening such a social and financial success. We made over £2,600 for the Big Space Cancer Appeal.

Other events are in the planning stage. One firm date is June 29th 2024. A family day at Overtown Farm. Guess the weight of the fleece, picnic, treasure hunt. The next venture will be announced soon.

We'll be back.....

For those of you who were not able to join us or would like to support our fundraising, please use the following in your browser

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/cranham-the-big-space-cancer-appeal-1698759080501>

Happy Christmas Everyone!

CRANHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Power Point' show of OLD CRANHAM IMAGES

Jan Whitton on behalf of the Cranham Local History Society will be repeating the show on **Saturday afternoon – 24th February 2024.**

Make a note as soon as you buy your 2024 calendars, if you want the opportunity to see this wonderful collection of historic photos.

Friends of the Black Horse News

We are very excited to be writing the first of our regular updates of “what’s going on” at our Community owned Black Horse .



To give a quick recap, Dan, Mark and Marcia worked incredibly hard for almost 3 years to go through the process of applying on our behalf for a Government Community Ownership Fund of £250,000. This required an equal amount of £250,000 to be raised in shares from the community and incredibly, this was surpassed by an additional £10,900. The sale completed on October 25th this year, and now the Management Committee are working hard to ensure the remaining budget of approximately £160,000 is used wisely and in accordance with the guidance of the Community Ownership Fund.

While we cannot state every single item that needs addressing and it is highly likely we will find additional items that require attention once we start the improvement work, we do have a rationale for the work we are planning.

Firstly, we must undertake work to ensure the Black Horse is compliant with all fire and health and safety legislation. This is forming much of the work and is anticipated to be a major part of the expenditure. Secondly, we will undertake repairs that will prevent the building from deteriorating further and to make good items that are likely to fail in the near future. Thirdly, we will carry out work to reduce running costs to enable the Black Horse to be run as a viable commercial venture and to bring in revenue.

Due to the nature of the way the purchase was funded, several of the items needed 3 quotes and some had to be sent out for tender. Inspections have been carried out by the appropriate professional bodies, checking Fire and security, electrics, asbestos, the chimneys, the building structure, etc. By the time you are reading this, we hope to have nominated our building company and work will commence as soon as possible.

The open morning on Sunday 5th November was really well attended and we hope you were able to see that the work required is extensive and why the premises needs to be shut for the next few months. You can appreciate that this decision was not taken lightly but is totally necessary.

Continued on page 21

Black Horse - from page 20

We are grateful for all who have come forward to volunteer and will soon be able to have an idea of timings for all the various jobs required that can be done by the community. We have also noted and discussed all the suggestions given, some which the committee had considered and researched in the last few months but for the moment will not be viable, and some may be undertaken in the future when we have further budget.

Our budget can be increased by more shareholders either joining The Friends of the Black Horse or purchasing additional shares at £50 a share .

Please email: theblackhorsecommunity@outlook.com to express your interest.

You'll be pleased to know that we have entered the Black Horse for the Camra Pub Saving Award - <https://camra.org.uk/what-we-do/pub-saving-award/>

Wouldn't it be great if we win! (and deservedly so).

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and looking forward to sharing a toast together very soon in 2024.

The Management Committee of Friends of the Black Horse

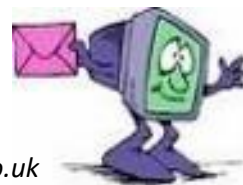
*All articles or enquiries with regards to the **Cranham Magazine** only should be emailed to:*

All general articles: editors@cranhammag.co.uk

All church articles: church@cranhammag.co.uk

Advertising enquiries: advertising@cranhammag.co.uk

Distribution enquiries : distribution@cranhammag.co.uk



Notes from the Chair

The Parish Council met on November 7th.

Council Vacancy

Jeremy Strickland was co-opted onto the Council. This co-option will last until May 2024, when a completely new Council must be formed. (This coincides with the four-year election cycle for the District Council).

Village Email

The Parish Council is delighted a new person has joined the village email team. It is essential that all communications are sent direct to cranhammail@gmail.com and not to any individual.

Council tax. & Finance

The Parish element in our total Council tax is less than 2%. The precept will be increased next year from £8863 to £9750, at an additional cost of approx. 1p per day for a band D property. A draft budget was discussed, to be confirmed at next meeting as some costs were uncertain.

Playing Field

It was agreed that a full Tree Safety survey be commissioned, because of concerns about ash dieback disease.

New volunteers are sought to help run the Playing Field and its facilities. Suggestions have been received for additional play equipment and other improvements, some funding is available, but we need volunteers to form a Playing Field working group to carry these ideas forward.

Zip wire, currently not operating. Improvements to its operation and recommissioning were discussed.

Parish Clerk

It was with great regret that the Council accepted the resignation of our current clerk, Belinda. We are looking for a new one to takeover in the New Year.

Nigel Cooper

Chair Cranham Parish Council
cllrcoopercranhampc@gmail.com

01452 813870



At Sportily throughout November we've been busy engaging with the schools and running holiday clubs. In the Beacon area on the Monday Hangout space we've continued to examine the theme of Who is God and listened to professional sports people talk about their journey to faith.

We ran a holiday club in the Beacon half-term holiday which was great fun! We had 8 young people – played familiar games, learnt new ones, played sports, ate food and explored the theme of Adventure together. Sadly, the club was meant to run two days but due to sickness it could only run the one day. It was a huge shame, but we look forward to many more to come!

SPORTILY HANGOUT
Painswick Youth and Community Pavilion, Lower Washwell Lane, Painswick GL6 6XW
Every Monday
5–6pm for school years 5–6
6–7pm for school years 7–13
Play games, hangout, chat, explore the Christian faith and eat food!
Cost: £1 per session (First week free, use code FREESESSION)
➤ Click here to sign up or scan the QR code
QR code:
sportily.org.uk/beacon

Throughout the December school term we will be running our weekly Hangout still on a Monday night (5pm-6pm Y5 & 6 and 6pm-7pm Secondary School). A date for the diary is on Monday 11th December at 6pm-8pm we will be running a Christmas Quiz for the community in Painswick at St. Mary's Church Rooms – so please come along we'd love to see you there!

For more information contact
mark.trubey@sportily.org.uk
07949 111 817
sportily.org.uk



The Bisley Flicks in the Sticks Presents:

The Living

At Bisley Village Hall

8pm on Tuesday 12th December 2023

Doors Open 7:30pm for Tea, Coffee and Wine



Village Email System

We now have an additional helper on the village email “team”, which is great for holiday cover and general resilience.



It is therefore essential that all announcements are sent to cranhammail@gmail.com , not to specific individuals.

Also, PLEASE

Send your copy in plenty of time, we are limited to 300 mails per day (and currently there are 221 on our list).

If there are graphics or photos, please send in jpeg format. (Simple text is ok as we can cut and paste).

Please provide a title to your announcement.

Nigel Cooper

Chair Cranham Parish Council

cllrcoopercranhampc@gmail.com / 01452 813870

Foodbank

Reminder that there is NO collection in December but we will be back in the New Year.



Thank you to everyone who gave to our **BIG CHRISTMAS COLLECTION** on Wednesday 8th November.

As always, if you wish to make a bank donation, you can do so using the following details:

Stroud District Foodbank CIO

Sort code: 09-01-29 Account: 21994911

Thank you!

The Foodbank Team

Mobile: 07950 651228

Cranham Christmas Dinner

This will be held on

Monday 11th December

12 noon in the Scout H.Q.



All villagers are welcome, but please book with Nicky by 4th December, regular diners will automatically be put on the list; the cost this year will be £8.00 for regulars and £12.00 for visitors. We are very pleased to welcome Cranham school choir this year who will be coming to sing us some carols.



Menu for the day, as follows:

Fruit juice/wine

Roast Turkey and Cranberry Sauce

Sausages and Stuffing

Roast Potatoes and Roast Parsnips

Sprouts, Carrots and Gravy

Christmas Pudding and Cream

or Fresh Fruit

Mince Pies

Tea/coffee and Mints

Contact Nicky Overs nickyovers@hotmail.co.uk,

07884 432886 or 812429

Recycle your Christmas Tree with Longfield



Get organised and book your Christmas tree collection before you've even cooked the turkey.



For a voluntary donation, you'll get your tree whisked away by Longfield's team of volunteers and taken to recycling sites where it will be chipped into mulch, then scattered on pathways and car parks at Painswick Rococo Garden.

Last year, Longfield collected 3,000 trees from the Stroud, Cirencester and Gloucester districts in just three days, and raised nearly £50,000 for essential hospice care. This year, they're aiming to beat last year's record – costs of care are rising and they need every penny to provide free hospice care for dying people and their families, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Check whether Longfield can collect from your postcode and book your collection at www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree.


Longfield couldn't run this scheme without the support of dozens of local businesses and volunteers who donate vans and drivers during the collection period.

If you can volunteer your time or a van, or both, for a day or more between 13th to 16th January, please contact Longfield at events@longfield.org.uk or 01453 886868

Also coming Up....

10th December, Minchinhampton – Light Up A Life memorial celebration

24th February, Stroud – Ale Amble four mile circular walk



Cranham Choir and Orchestra's



Christmas
Concert



**SUNDAY 17TH
DECEMBER**

**2.30 PM AT THE
VILLAGE HALL**

Donations to the Church Organ Fund



Carol Singing around the Village

Friday 22nd December



Step outside for some festive cheer, and join members of the village choir who will be singing carols and sharing mulled wine at the following places :

At 6pm: In the drive of The Lodge, Cranham Corner.

At 6.30pm : The Knoll, at end of the road, outside Baggend.

At 7pm : On the corner of Church Close.

And if you are keen, you are welcome to travel around the village to each venue!

There will be a cash collection for Christian Aid, supporting some of the poorest peoples of the world.

Christmas Greetings to Cranham Friends - 2023

“Wishing Cranham a peaceful, festive and very happy Christmas”



Well, Cranham we've raised a rather brilliant £837 for charity in lieu of Christmas cards this year!

The following families would like to send Christmas Greetings to all their friends in the village. Once again, instead of sending local cards, donations are being made to a variety of charities including the Hospice Africa, Allsorts, Cancer Research, Smile Train, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Willow Trust, Gurkha Welfare Trust, Alzheimers Research, Alzheimers Association, The Rainbow Trust, Children in Need, MS Society, Stroud Foodbank and Bibury Church of England School.



Some of you mentioned other charities that you donate to throughout the year – too many to mention – so much good coming from our small but wonderful village!

The Christmas wishes message comes from:-

Kathy & David Bonney, Liz & Paul Cattle, Joan & Derek Chamberlayne, Dave and Joan Charman, Ken, Ian, Nicki, Emily & Evie Clapton, Nigel Cooper, Linda de Cossart, Helen, Tom & Becky Daltry, Laura, Jasper, Oliver & Joshua Drake, Len Eldridge, Sue & Peter Elliott, Jean Evans, Janet & John Gazzard, Ann Green, Norma and Martin Kay, Ruth & Bill Lambell, Caitlin and Andy Miller & Family, Hazel Roberts & Chris Collier, Sue & Ian Shaw, Jane Shepherd & Mike Drake,, Brenda Spence, Karen Stageman & Rob Hannis, Alex and Jess Stageman, Sue & Phil Stick, Carol & Ted Tringham-Daniels, Olwen Tringham & Kim Roberts, Carol & Peter Turnham, Hazel & Alan Tyson, Evelyn Usher, Pat & Mike Wakeman, John Watts, June & Mark Whitaker.



Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswolds shares tips for how to save money on your energy bills

As people across Stroud and Cotswolds Districts face another winter of high energy bills, Citizens Advice shares how small changes can make a big difference when it comes to saving energy and lowering costs.

The charity has teamed up with the Energy Saving Trust to share advice on getting help if you are struggling with energy bills and tips on how to cut energy costs around the home.

People can make simple changes to save money on their energy bills and don't need to wait until the colder months to do so. These include:

- Washing clothes at 30°C could save around £15 per year - and reducing the number of wash cycles by one per week could save a further £15.
- Reducing shower time to four minutes could save a typical household as much as £75 a year.
- Swapping one bath a week for a four-minute shower could save an average of £17 a year.
- Avoiding overfilling the kettle could save around £12 a year on electricity.
- Draught-proofing windows and doors will help your home feel warmer and could save around £50 a year on bills.
- Turning appliances off at the wall/plug when you're not using them could save an average of £60 a year.
- Turning the thermostat down by 1°C could save around £115 a year.

Installing a Smart Meter can help people get better control of their energy use and budgets. Smart meters come with an In-home Display Unit (IHD) that shows how much you're using and its cost, almost as you use it – in real time. The government has instructed all energy suppliers to offer households a smart meter by 2025. You don't have to have one but may benefit from reduced tariffs with some suppliers. The government estimates that customers with smart meters save an average of £50 a year.

Continued on page 32

Check you're getting all the support you're entitled to...



Lifestyle changes won't be possible for everyone and may not be enough to cover the hole in household budgets caused by higher prices, so Citizens Advice is also urging people to check they're getting all the support they're entitled to. This could include:

- Checking what benefits you're entitled to by using a benefits calculator.
- Warm Home Discount — a £150 annual discount if you get certain benefits.
- Cold weather payments — payments if you get certain benefits and the weather is extremely cold.
- Grants from your energy supplier — to help you pay off debts you may owe.

For more information, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

If you owe money to your energy supplier, you should speak to them as soon as possible. They're responsible for helping you find a way to pay your bills.

Elizabeth Hall, Chief Officer of Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts said: "We know lots of people are worried about how they'll cover their energy bills this winter. So it's important people know what support they're entitled to and how to cut back on energy costs where they can. Every day we hear from people who are already doing everything they can, but sky-high costs mean it's simply not enough. We want to remind anyone struggling they're not alone, if you need support managing your bills, please contact us."

STROUD ROTARY COMMUNITY AWARDS

A programme to support organisations within the Stroud area
with a grant of up to £500.

If a small grant would make a real difference to your
community project, apply for a Stroud Rotary Community
Award. Nothing is too small to be considered.

For more details go to : www.stroudrotary.org.uk
or email :

community.awards.stroud.rotary@gmail.com

Closing Date for Applications is 6:00 p.m. 31st January 2024



Charity Number 1049604

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SCHOOL PRESENT



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Purchase raffle tickets by emailing
friendsofcranhamschool@gmail.com.

Pay by **cash** or **online** via BACS to Friends of Cranham
School, sort code 30-93-48, account no. 01602240.

Please add your name as reference if paying online.

Raffle to be drawn on Friday 22 December 2023

All funds raised will go to Friends of Cranham School
(FOCS) to provide extra facilities, equipment and
activities for the pupils of the school.
Registered charity number: 1122855.



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David Smith - Trumpet

Christopher Swain - Conductor

SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER
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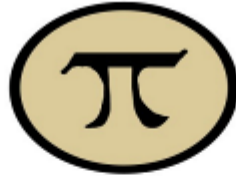
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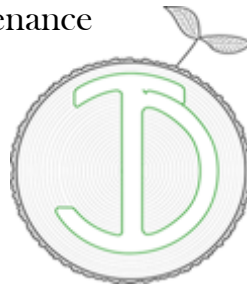
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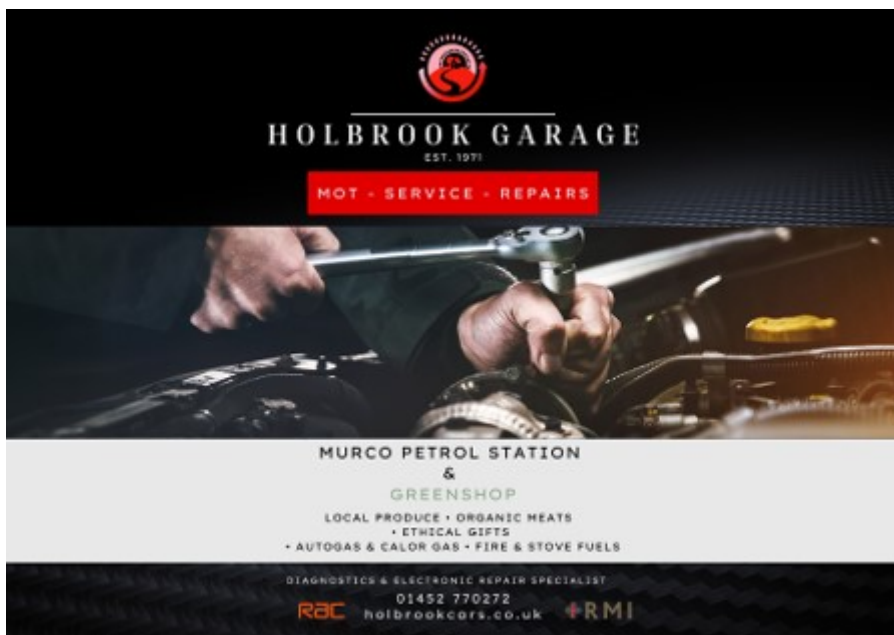
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REGULAR EVENTS (although all may be subject to cancellation or change, so please check directly with the organisers)

Village Lunch	Monthly on a Monday 12.15 for 12.30pm (Nicky Overs 07884 432886)
Sportily Hangout	First Monday of month 5.00 - 6.00pm - Painswick Pavilion
Youth Space	First Monday of month 6.00 - 7.00pm - Painswick Pavilion (Mark Trubey 07949 111817)
Orchestra	Mondays 8.00pm - V Hall (Beryl Berry 813200)
Post Office	Tuesdays 10.00am - 12noon - V Hall
Rachel's Pop Up Café	Tuesdays 10.00am - 2.30pm - V Hall
Cranham Art Group	Tuesdays 7.00 - 9.00pm - V Hall (Lyn Barker 813025)
Choir	Tuesdays 7.30pm - V Hall (Virginia Pittman 07989 712263 virginiapittman3@gmail.com)
Handbell Ringers	Wednesdays 9.30 - 11.30am (Jenny Barraclough 07977 997375 jenny.barraclough@btinternet.com)
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Wednesdays - Scout Centre - times as follows: Beaver Scouts (6 to 8 yrs) 4.45 to 5.45pm Cub Scouts (8 to 10 yrs) 5.50 to 7.10pm Scouts (10 to 14 yrs) 7.30 to 9.00pm
Table Tennis Club	Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm - V Hall (Clive Hayden 07833 635762 chayden814@gmail.com)
Cranham Ramblers	Alternate Thursdays 9.30am - V Hall (Joan Charman 812708)
S'Combe Bridge Club	2nd and 4th Thursdays 7.00pm - Sheepscombe V Hall (Contact Joy Edwards 812588)
Rachel's Pop Up Café	Fridays 9.00 - 12.30pm - V Hall
Parent and Toddler	Fridays 9.15 - 10.45am - V Hall (Contact tbc)
Explorer Scouts	Fridays 7.30 - 9.00pm - V Hall (Ian Coupland ian@couplandclan.co.uk)
Church Bell Ringers	Alternate Saturdays 9.30am - Church (Rob Garratt 07703 503547)
Garden Club	Brimpsfield , Phone Francis Ellery 01452 862412 for further info

No new people in the village this month!

Welcome!

However, If we have missed anyone, please accept our apologies and make yourself known and we will include you next time.



MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

All articles for the forthcoming month should be forwarded to the editors by email to

editors@cranhammag.co.uk (preferred option).

Articles should be forwarded as either a WORD or WORKS document and preferably in Ariel or Calibri font size 10 on A5 size paper settings. Articles may also be sent manually typed or hand written.

Please refrain from using ADOBE EDITOR as all articles have to be edited prior to inserting into the magazine.

All hard copies should be forward to **Baggend (at the Knoll)**.

All items to be included within next months magazine will need to be in the hands of the editors by the following dates:

WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER 2023

Magazines will be available for distribution:
on **Sunday 24th December** or thereabouts.

The date will be confirmed to the distributors by email.

Sue & Ian Shaw

814839

editors@cranhammag.co.uk

CRANHAM DIARY



Merry Christmas

DECEMBER 2023

2	Sat	Garden Society Meeting	B'field V Hall	10.30 for 11.00am
3	Sun	Advent Service	Church	11.00am
5	Tues	Recycling/Food Waste		
7	Thurs	Ramble	Village Hall	9.45am
		CLHS Talk	Village Hall	7.45pm
8	Fri	Advent Quiet Day	St. Mary's	11.00am - 3.00pm
9	Sat	Wycliffe Choral Society	St. Mary's	2.30pm
10	Sun	Holy Communion	Church	11.00am
11	Mon	Sportily Christmas Quiz	Painswick	tbc
		Christmas Village Dinner	Scout HQ	12.00noon
12	Tues	Rubbish/Food Waste		
		Flicks in the Sticks	Bisley V Hall	7.30 for 8.00pm
13	Wed	** Magazine Contributions Due **		
17	Sun	Village Carol Concert	Village Hall	2.30pm
		Evensong	Church	6.30pm
19	Tues	Recycling/Food Waste		
21	Thurs	Ramble	Village Hall	9.45am
22	Fri	Cranham School Raffle to be drawn		
		Carols around the village	Various	6.00 - 7.30pm
24	Sun	Crib Service	Church	4.00pm
25	Mon	Christmas Day HC	Church	11.00am
30	Sat	Rubbish/Food Waste		
		9 Lessons & Carols	Church	6.30pm
31	Sun	Holy Communion	Church	11.00am



JANUARY 2024

4 & 18	Thurs	Rambles		
14	Sun	Commons Working Party	Common	9.30am - 12.30pm

For Regular Events - please see page 46