

## Amelcote Benefice

# The Messenger



**December-January-February 2024-5**

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## Reverend Marion's Christmas message



It has been a pretty tremendous year, 2024, hasn't it? We have had the ongoing conflicts in Russia and Ukraine and between Israel and Gaza, Lebanon, Iran and the Palestinians crowding our media, several severe natural disasters, not to mention an acrimonious general election and a presidential election in the USA. On a personal level, Paul and my decision to accept the offer to return to Amelcote benefice as your rector again, and various family and friend events, have all combined to make 2024 quite an intense year.

We are fast approaching the seasons of Advent and Christmas, the time when we lead up to the climax - the overwhelming love of God for his world in sending his Son, Jesus, to show us the way back to God. Advent, one of the 2 penitential seasons in the church's year, is a time of examining ourselves and just how far we fall short of God's desire for us to live in and care for this wonderful world that He has made us stewards of; in short how we have not followed Jesus' command to love God with all our heart and our neighbour as ourselves. It is also a time of anticipation, of expectation for God coming into our world - as a baby born in Bethlehem 2000ish years ago and also a time when, as the hymn says "the earth will be filled with the glory of God" when Christ returns to earth.

The Biblical book of Daniel, often quoted in the Advent season, is a book that bears inspection today. Yes, we are talking different time, different economic and social structures and autocratic, almost tyrannical rulers; however, the sentiments are the same and so powerful. Take, for example, Daniel chapter 5. This reading is Belshazzar's feast and one reflection on it reads "we know something about the transition of power between the Babylonians and the Persians, and there are good historical reasons why it happened, but our writer is not interested in them. This book wants to show us, above all, that God controls everything and everyone. If there is a regime change, then God is behind it and God has his reasons. Its readers are encouraged to believe this, even when it is not easy to see, and know that ultimately, they can feel safe in God's world". Words indeed for us to mull over and reflect on as we approach Advent and Christmas.

One phrase often used to describe Jesus is "prince of peace", in other words the epitome of love, tolerance and harmony. Let us take this opportunity to listen again to the story of God's working out of his purpose for humanity and pledge ourselves to listen to and follow the Prince of Peace, not just at this time but each and every day.

Come and join us as we celebrate Advent and Christmas in our benefice churches. May God indeed grant each and every one of us a happy and peaceful Christmas and 2025.

*Revd Marion*

## Services in the Amelcote Benefice

You are most welcome to come along to any of the services listed below for December, January and February.



Date	Time	Service	Church
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	10am 5pm	Holy Communion Advent celebration service	Cold Higham Pattishall
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Holy Communion	Tiffield
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	10am 5pm	Holy Communion Carol Service with Gayton Singers	Pattishall Gayton
Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Carol Service with 'Pop-Up' choir	Pattishall
Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10am 3.30pm	Holy Communion Carol Service	Gayton Tiffield
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	4pm	Crib Service	Pattishall
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Christmas Day Family Communion	Cold Higham
Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Holy Communion	Pattishall
Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Holy Communion - Epiphany	Cold Higham
Jan 12 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Holy Communion	Tiffield
Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Holy Communion	Pattishall
Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Holy Communion	Gayton
Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	Holy Communion	Cold Higham
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	10am 3pm	Holy Communion Vintage Candlemas	Tiffield Pattishall
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Holy Communion	Pattishall
Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10am	Holy Communion	Gayton

We have a weekly news sheet for readings, prayers and up to the minute information on services. Please email Chris Bulleid on [amelcote.info@gmail.com](mailto:amelcote.info@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

## Advent Lunch

All welcome to a frugal lunch of soup, bread and cheese.



The theme is the 'Advent Ring'

Friday 6th December 12noon at the Rectory, Church Street, Pattishall

Friday 13th December 12 noon at Tiffield Parish Room

Friday 20th December 12 noon at Cold Higham Hall

## Prayer Breakfasts

You are invited to a prayerful breakfast where we can enjoy fellowship and prayer in an informal setting.



First Saturdays of the month

7th December, 1st February, 1st March

8.30am at the Rectory

Please note—there will be no Prayer Breakfast in January

## Pastoral Matters

If you are in need of someone to talk to,  
or would like to pray with someone, please contact  
Jean Pugh, Pastoral Minister on 01327 830909 or mobile 07711329664

## Holy Cross, Pattishall



### Winter Warmer Lunches

12 - 2 pm  
Sundays

1st December,  
5th January, 2nd February,  
2nd March

All welcome for hot soup, roll,  
cake, tea and coffee

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, PATTISHALL

## CRAFTS & PLAY

Fridays

17th, 24th, 31st Jan & 7th Feb  
28th Feb, 7th, 14th, 21st March

3.00-4.30 pm



Crafts and toys  
Tea/coffee and cake

Everyone welcome



## Well Group

Well Group is a Christian ladies group which meets monthly at Astcote Methodist Church to share food and fellowship.

No meeting in December

9 January 12-2 pm Lunch with speaker, Revd Marion Reynolds 'How Did I get Here?'

6 February 12-2 pm Lunch with speaker, Alison Shefford, County Ecumenical Officer

All women are welcome to join us. Please get in touch with Ali on 01327 830770 or [albrierley@btinternet.com](mailto:albrierley@btinternet.com)



## St. Luke's Church, Cold Higham

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our coffee mornings during the past year, whether baking, helping on the day, or visiting the Church and making donations.

The PCC are very grateful to you all for your generosity and look forward to seeing you again.

Wishing you all the peace of Christmas.

***Pauline Pearson***



## Homemade Preserves



Chutneys, Marmalade and Jam  
£2-£3.50 depending on size  
available from Alison , or from Holy Cross church

01327 830770 or [albrierley@btinternet.com](mailto:albrierley@btinternet.com)

proceeds to church in South Sudan

# Carol Service

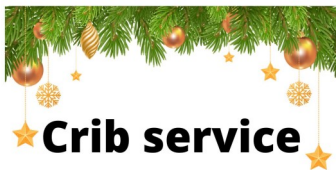
Thursday 19 Dec at 6:30pm

Join us with our local scouting organisations for a joyful service of carols and seasonal readings

- 'PopUp' choir and full organ accompaniment
- Festive refreshments to follow...



At Holy Cross Church - Pattishall



**Crib service**  
**24th December**  
**4 pm**

**Holy Cross, Pattishall**  
**Refreshments**



## Gayton Carol Service

Sunday 15th December 5pm



## Tiffield Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December 3.30pm

Seasonal Refreshments  
All welcome

# Choral Day

## Sat 1st February 2025

### Holy Cross, Pattishall

Singers 9.30 am

'Sing through' performance 4.30 pm



A choral workshop and singing masterclass led by Richard Laing from the Leicester Bach Choir, followed by a 'sing through' performance to which everyone is welcome. If you enjoy singing and would like to take part you can obtain more details and a booking form by scanning the QR code, or clicking [here](#). Alternatively email Gail Stuart [gstuart@morecambemoments.com](mailto:gstuart@morecambemoments.com)

We are delighted to have Richard Laing leading us again with Andrew King as our accompanist. This year Richard has chosen three anthems for us to learn and perform - *Hubert Parry's 'I was glad' and 'Blest pair of sirens' (8 part version) along with Ralph Vaughan Williams' 'Toward the Unknown Region'*

## Vintage Candlemas

9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

15.00

Holy Cross Church



An informal Christ-centred service of fun and fellowship, with tea and cake.

All are welcome



## Children's Society Box Collection 2024

Many thanks to those in the Amelcote Benefice who collect their small change throughout the year for the work of the Children's Society. This year's box collection raised **£535.00**

If you would like to have a Children's Society box in your home, or wish to make a donation please contact Margaret Bulleid on 07753 516966 or [maggie@bulleid.co.uk](mailto:maggie@bulleid.co.uk).

## School Nativity and Christingle Services in our churches



### Pattishall

13th December, 9.30am, Nativity

16th December, 2.15pm, Christingle

### Tiffield

16th December, 6.00pm, Nativity

14th January, 3.00pm, Christingle

### Gayton

17th December, 6.00pm, Nativity

13th January, 3.00pm, Christingle



## ‘Welcome Mary and Joseph to your home this Christmas’

**W**hen I was in parish ministry, I was delighted to learn about the tradition of the Posada which one village had been running for a number of years. Posada means ‘inn’ in Spanish and, in Mexico and parts of the United States, an activity has developed when small versions of Mary and Joseph travel around different households in the community and stay there for one night. On Christmas Day, they are brought into church and placed in the crib where they are joined by the baby Jesus. In the small village where I ministered, this had become a beloved tradition and many people joined in.

‘Welcome Mary and Joseph to your home this Christmas’ is the invitation that is offered to the community and in doing this, people are encouraged to make room for Jesus in a new and creative way.

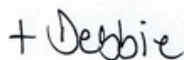
I wonder what it would be like for you to make room in your home for Jesus this Advent and

Christmas – maybe it would be slowing down and taking time to speak to him; perhaps it is thinking about those in need in your neighbourhood

and finding ways to serve them; you might want to find time to read afresh the words of the prophets in the Old Testament who look ahead to the day that the Messiah will come and live among God’s people. Whatever it might look like to you, can I encourage you to invite Jesus into your home, into your heart and into your lives.

‘The word became flesh and dwelt among us’

With Christmas blessings



The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin  
Bishop of Peterborough



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[www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk)



Click the link for the latest updates from the Diocese

[News from the Diocese](#)



A box for Foodbank donations can be found in Holy Cross church every day and in the porch at Holmeview, 8 Greenway, Eastcote, on Fridays. Please ensure that all food is non-perishable and well within sell-by date.

[Click here for items currently most needed](#)

Your generous donations are gratefully received and make a real difference. Thank you.

*Jean Pugh*



Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.  
Please send items for the March/April/May issue to  
Margaret Bulleid [amelcote.messenger@gmail.com](mailto:amelcote.messenger@gmail.com)  
by Feb 16th.

**Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas!**

# Who's Who in the Amelcote Benefice

## Rector

Reverend Marion Reynolds

01327 624203

## Reader

Sue Titheridge

07879 882660

## Lay Pastoral Minister

Jean Pugh

07711 329664

## Churchwardens

Cold Higham	Pauline Pearson	01327 830287
Gayton	Andy Hartley	01604 858360
	John Rogers	07973 836387
Pattishall	Alison Brierley	01327 830770
Tiffield	Mike Dean	01327 350077
	Rachel Holloway	01327 353172

## The Amelcote Benefice

St Luke, Cold Higham: St Mary, Gayton

Holy Cross, Pattishall: St John the Baptist, Tiffield