

Amelcote Benefice

The Messenger



December-January-February 2023-24

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Sue's Christmas message



Christmas is a time of such hope and high expectations. It can also be a time of great stress, as we try to make those expectations and hopes come true. We worry how we'll ever manage to find the time and the money for everything and whether everyone will be pleased. Or perhaps we feel left out by all the hype.

It's easy to forget the reason for celebration - the birth of a baby.

Not just any baby - but baby Jesus - also called 'Emmanuel', 'God with us'.

Baby Jesus,

who came helpless and vulnerable, soon to be a refugee;
came to share our human life - its lows and highs, pains and joys;
came to bring the love and peace of God to all.

You are welcome to come and celebrate Jesus's birthday in any of our churches.

Wherever you are, may you experience God's love and peace this Christmas.

Sue Titheridge
Lay minister
Amelcote Benefice

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 3rd	10am 2pm	Family Communion with Carols Blessing of the Bells	Cold Higham Pattishall
Dec 10th	10am 5pm	Family Communion Carol Service	Tiffield Gayton
Thur Dec 14th	6pm	Carol Service	Tiffield
Dec 17th	10am	Family Communion	Pattishall
Thurs Dec 21st	6.30pm	Carol service	Pattishall
Dec 24th	10 am 3pm	Family Communion Crib Service	Gayton Pattishall
Mon Dec 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>	10am 11am	Family Communion Family Service	Pattishall Tiffield
Dec 31st		No Service	

Date	Time	Service	Church
7th Jan	10am	Family Communion	Cold Higham
14th Jan	10am	Family Communion	Tiffield
21st Jan	10am	Family Communion	Pattishall
28th Jan	10am	Family Communion	Gayton
4th Feb	10am	Family Communion	Cold Higham
11th Feb	10am	Family Communion	Tiffield
18th Feb	10am	Family Communion	Pattishall
25th Feb	10am	Family 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 if you would like to be added to the mailing list.



Advent Lunch
studying
The Gospel of Mark

With a frugal lunch of soup, bread and cheese.

Starts on December 7th
11.45 – 13.15
at Holmeview, 8 Greenway, Eastcote

(Dec 7th, 14th & 21st, Jan 4th, 11th & 18th)

To confirm your place, please ring
Jean on 01327830909 / 07711329664
or Sue on 01327351219 / 07870882660

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

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

Happy Christmas!

Pattishall Bells return ...

We are delighted to report that our six bells, along with the two new ones, are now safely back at Holy Cross and on display in the south aisle until about 6th December. They are looking superb and it is a rare opportunity to see and touch these beautiful instruments, which usually we can only hear. The supporting beams have been installed in the tower and we're waiting for the concrete to set before the frame can be completed and the bells and wheels fitted, hopefully in time for the eight bells to ring out across the village on Christmas Day.



Blessing the Bells Sunday 3rd December, 2pm

On December 3rd, following the Winter Warmer lunch, at 2pm there will be a short service of Blessing of the new bells, led by Archdeacon Richard Ormston. We would love people from the churches and community to come along to share in this very special, historic moment.



You will be warmly welcomed. Tea and cake will be served following the Blessing.

Chris Bulleid - Tower Captain



**Crib service
with carols**
24th December
3 pm
Holy Cross, Pattishall
Refreshments

Crafts & Play

Crafts and Play are having a craft activity during the Crib Service on Christmas Eve 24th December, 3 pm at Holy Cross church. Come and enjoy making something while we gently put together the Nativity scene, and everyone can take part. Just the thing to make Christmas come alive for you!

The Crafts and Play sessions in the church have been really amazing since September, with craft activities producing animal puppets, leaf garlands, firework rockets, a beautiful poppy wreath, with glass painting tea lights and Christmas decorations to follow. The different construction toys and games, including marble runs and puzzles, are thanks to the Toy Library in Northampton. We welcome more construction games and toys, if people want to pass things on to us.

Bring your pre-schoolers, babies and toddlers from 3 pm, sharing smiles and mat play before the children come straight from school. As always, the children are the stars of the show, bringing much fun to us all. Our older residents really like watching the children play and craft while they sit chatting over tea and cake. Parents supervise, and everyone is welcome - come in!

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, PATTISHALL

**CRAFTS
& PLAY**

Fridays
12th, 19th, 26th January
2nd, 9th, 16th February
1st, 8th, 15th March
3.00-4.30 pm

Crafts and toys
Tea/Coffee and cake
Bible Stories

Everyone welcome



Ali Brierley

Carol Service

Thursday 21 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

Winter Warmer Lunches



Holy Cross, Pattishall

12 - 2 pm

Sundays
3rd December,
7th January and
4th February

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

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

25 January 12-2 pm Lunch with speaker, Diane Forsyth on 'Changing Direction'

22 February 12-2 pm Lunch with speaker.

All women are welcome to join us. Please get in touch with Ali on 01327 830770 or albrierley@btinternet.com

Gayton Carol Service

Sunday 10th December
5pm



Tiffield Carol Service

Thursday 14th December
6pm

All welcome

Prayer Breakfast 2024

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



Every second Saturday of the month
starting on Saturday 13th January
(13th January; 10th February; 9th March)

9.00 – 10.30 am
at Holmeview, 8 Greenway, Eastcote

Please confirm your attendance by contacting
Jean Pugh on 07711329664 or pughjean@btinternet.com

Choral Day—Brahms Requiem Sat 3rd February 2024 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. If you enjoy singing and would like to take part you can obtain more details and a booking form by scanning the QR code using the camera on your smartphone.

Alternatively email Gail Stuart gstuart@morecambemoments.com

Gail writes... If you would like to join us for the day to sing that would be marvellous. If you would like to come to the "sing through" performance and enjoy a glass of wine, that would be marvellous too!

Brahms Requiem is a very popular choral work with great tunes. We are delighted to have Andrew King as our accompanist again and Rachel Bedford will be our soprano soloist. Just complete the form and post it through my letterbox, or provide the info to me by email. This will be our fourth Choral Day, with an interruption of two years due to Covid restrictions. Sadly Nigel Perrin is unable to continue conducting due to health issues, but I am delighted that Richard Laing has taken up the baton! I look forward to seeing you there.

Children's Society Box Collection 2023

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 £514.65

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.



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

A message for Advent

I always like to think of it as a 'Pregnant pause' - literally for Mary and Elizabeth of course! For most of us though it is a time of waiting, of getting ready, of expecting.

What is it that we are expecting though? Presents is often the answer I get in school when I ask that question and of course that is true and with those gifts comes the expectation of time with friends or with family, a space to celebrate. We expect a change of atmosphere and attitude - we look forward to 'feeling - Christmassy'!

Alas though, so often, we rush into Christmas with other expectations, stress, busyness, panic, overcrowded shops, relationships strained to breaking point, guests we 'ought' to invite but don't really want to.

In our churches perhaps we could try to slow the pace down a little. It seems impossible I know- but what if, in Advent, we journey together, taking time to look back on those who have gone before us, waiting with expectancy for the story which fills our Christmas day but not rushing to get there, enjoying the journey itself not just focussing on the destination.

This advent (if you can) take just 5 minutes each day to find a little space, to allow yourself to expect the good things, to give to God those difficulties and moments that you dread and to feel the pace slowing a little. Five minutes may seem like no



time (or else an impossibly long time to stop with so much to do) but if we can carve out just those few minutes to contemplate the reality of Christmas. The reality we are reminded of each year, that God of the universe who chose to be born a vulnerable child, in a borrowed stable, a family forced to live as refugees and then endure a life as an outsider so that we might know God's love and presence in the joys and sorrows of our lives. There is something about taking time on the journey that allows us to 'look forward' to Christmas in a new way, to wonder about what will be in a way that Children seem to find so easy and as adults we seem so often to have lost.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Booker'.

Alison Booker
Archdeacon of Oakham



A Christmas Poem

There was a child,
There was a lamb,
Born so still,
So heralded
By star and angels on the hill
That all mankind
Has only ashes found
At that rainbow's end.
Lord, it is not the end we seek,
The pot of gold:
The bow of mercy in the sky
Suffices all the Christmases of time.

Marion Waller
Christmas 1968

Many of you will remember Marion Waller who was a long-standing member of the congregation at Holy Cross, recorder player and teacher, and a much loved teacher at Pattishall School. Throughout her life Marion wrote many beautiful and thought-provoking poems which were published by her husband Robert in 2017, in a collection called 'The Bow of Mercy'. This is one of a pair of Christmas Poems, which Robert has chosen to share with you.

Who's Who in the Amelcote Benefice

Rector

Vacancy

Reader

Sue Titheridge

01327 351219

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