

**Amelcote Benefice**

# *The Messenger*



**December-January-February 2025-6**

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## Reverend Marion's Christmas message

Remembrance Sunday was such a special day this year as so many folk joined us in the church for the Remembrance Sunday service. It felt so good to hold all those whose lives were cut short or changed forever in our hearts and prayers and to earnestly pray for the peace of our very fragile world; a world that God gave us out of His love for us but which we do so often seem more inclined to destroy than to cherish.

Talking about God's love for us, it was because we humans were messing up so much that God decided to send His Son into our world, to be our "Blueprint" for how we should live in harmony with each other and with creation in general.



And so we get to Christmas, the annual celebration of Jesus' birth, a time of Joy! That is the theme the Church of England has chosen this year. - JOY! As the hymn starts "Joy to the world the Lord has come; let earth receive her king. Let every heart prepare him room and heaven and angels sing". We will certainly be singing as we celebrate again the Christmas season. Look out for the date of a carol service near you, the crib service at Holy Cross on Christmas Eve (particularly for the young and young at heart!) and Christmas Day Holy Communion at Holy Cross.

Before we get to the Christmas celebrations, the church celebrates Advent, literally meaning "coming", one of the two penitential seasons in the church's year (the other one being Lent). We especially think about just how far we fall short of being the people God wants us to be and we look forward to the time when God fully brings in His kingdom. During Advent, again following the theme of Joy, we will be looking at the Advent carol 'O come O come Emmanuel'. A talk, followed by a bread and soup lunch on the Fridays in December - 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in Cold Higham Parish Hall and 12<sup>th</sup> in Tiffield Parish Room. Do come along and join us, no need to book,

May the peace of Christ be with you all this Christmas.

*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.



<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
Dec 7th	10am	Holy Communion	Cold Higham
Dec 14th	3.30pm 6pm	Carol Service Carol Service	Tiffield Cold Higham
Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Carol Service	Pattishall
Dec 21st	10am 4pm	Holy Communion Carol Service	Pattishall Gayton
Dec 24th	4pm	Crib Service	Pattishall
Dec 25th	10am	Christmas Eucharist	Pattishall
Dec 28th	10am	Holy Communion	Gayton
Jan 4th	10am	Holy Communion - Epiphany	Cold Higham
Jan 11th	10am	Holy Communion	Tiffield
Jan 18th	10am	Holy Communion	Pattishall
Jan 25th	10am	Holy Communion	Gayton
Feb 1st	10am	Holy Communion - Candlemas	Cold Higham
Feb 8th	10am	Holy Communion	Tiffield
Feb 15th	10am	Holy Communion	Pattishall
Feb 18th	TBC	Ash Wednesday service	Pattishall
Feb 22nd	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.



This year the Church of England is encouraging us to celebrate the season of Advent and Christmas with joy!!

## **ADVENT COURSE**

**Friday lunchtimes**

(soup and bread lunch supplied)

**11.30-13.30**

**Dec 5th Cold Higham Village Hall**

**Dec 12th Tiffield Parish Room**

**Dec 19th Cold Higham Village Hall**

We will be studying the Advent Antiphons  
using as our focus the well known Advent carol  
'O come, O come Emmanuel'

All welcome to attend; just come along, no need to book

## **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

# Winter Warmer Lunches



Holy Cross Church  
12 - 2 pm

*7<sup>th</sup> December, 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March*

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, PATTISHALL

# CRAFTS & PLAY

Fridays 3.00-4.30 pm

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>



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.

**4th December, 12-2pm**— Rev Kim Shorley - ‘Slow Stitching’

**8th January, 12-2pm** - Northamptonshire Health Charity with Tanya Haji-Miller

**5th February, 12-2pm** - Phoenix Rising MK with Sarah Bament.

Sarah attends Astcote Methodist Church and works with special needs adults.

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



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.

## Children's Society Box Collection 2025

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 **£420.60**

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).



## HOMEMADE PRESERVES



Apple jelly, Herb jelly, Marmalade,  
Apple & Raisin chutney, Plum chutney

**Prices from £2.50**

Proceeds to Tear Fund

**Contact Ali on 07794 742286**

# Carol Service

Tuesday 16th Dec 6:00pm

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...



Holy Cross Church - Pattishall

# Crib Service



Wednesday 24 Dec at 4:00pm



A short family-friendly service re-telling the story of the birth of Jesus

At Holy Cross Church - Pattishall

# Services of Lessons and Carols

**St John, Tiffield**

Sunday 14th December 3.30pm

**St Luke, Cold Higham**

Sunday 14th December 6.00pm



**Holy Cross, Pattishall**

Tuesday 16th December 6.00pm

**St Mary, Gayton**

Sunday 21st December 4pm



**Seasonal Refreshments  
All welcome**

## The Christingle Service

I wonder how many oranges will be used in our churches and schools this year as we celebrate a Christingle Service. For me, the lighting of the candle and the singing of 'Away in a Manger' has always been one of the most profound moments of the Christmas season. To watch young children (and adults, too!), be stilled in the gentle candlelight and to sing gently of the birth of Jesus, is a powerful way to recapture the joy and wonder of Christmas.

The Christingle itself is a sign of God's love for the world, it is a promise of hope at times of darkness, it is a message that Jesus is indeed the light of the world. As each candle is lit, we can see how each one joins together to banish the darkness. This is our calling – to live lives that burn brightly with the love of Jesus and to work together to bring hope.



My prayer for you, is that you will know the light of Jesus in your own lives this Christmas and that you will experience that joy that comes from welcoming the Son of God into our lives.

+ Debbie

The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin  
Bishop of Peterborough

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Click the link for the latest updates from the Diocese

[News from the Diocese](#)



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers



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

## Lay Pastoral Minister

Jean Pugh  
07711 329664

## Churchwardens

Cold Higham	Pauline Pearson	01327 830287
Gayton	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