



BRAMSHALL NEWS December 2022



'Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.'

Send your stories, photos and news for the next edition of Bramshall News

January publication deadline is Thursday 21st December

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December

December, a time of advent and looking forward; but also when winter starts and the weather starts to flex its colder side. There are some gardening tips from a kind reader this month which will be helpful to those who, like me, tend to be willing but lack focus.

This brings us neatly to the flowers of the month, holly and narcissus. Holly, which we tend to notice more for its glossy greenery and red berries than flowers, once symbolised protection from evil spirits but now is more commonly known for good fortune, peace and happiness. Accompanied by the scented white Narcissus which is associated with hope, simplicity, sweetness and faithfulness they combine to make a positive message. Although Narcissus is haunted a little by its name, a name which leads us to the Greek god who was punished for his callousness by having to look at his own reflection for eternity, its flowers are a welcome sight.

Another flower associated with this time is the Christmas rose with its lovely legend of the little shepherdess who, sad that she had no gift to bring to the newborn Jesus, was guided by an angel to roses created from her tears. An angel who told her that these flowers represented purity - the greatest gift she could give.

The evergreens around at this time of year lead our thoughts to the Advent Wreath made of a circle of evergreens to symbolise eternal life and the candles within for each of the Sundays of Advent with their message of Hope, Peace, Love, Joy, and the central Christ Candle lit on Christmas Day.



Quick Quiz:

1. Which long running TV soap showed its first episode on the 10th of December 1960?
2. Which day reminds us of the babies slaughtered by Herod?
3. What was opened by Harold MacMillan on the 5th of December 1958?
4. Which carol was first sung on the 24th December 1818?
5. What event took place 40m below the English Channel seabed on the 1st of December 1990?

Answers on P17

A Letter for December

I don't like these dark chilly deary days, much preferring the long warm days of summer light and colour. In the darkness of this season, we can become a little gloomy in ourselves too. Gloomy not just because of the dark dreary days, but also because of what's happening both in our own lives and in the world; of all the events taking place and of the precarious economic outlook, making us think of what we can or cannot afford, especially in this season of excess. We cannot but be affected by circumstances, both near and far. These can test our resolve and our faith.

Of course, all this is nothing new; with the exception of climate change, much of what is happening around the world has happened before in one way or another. All these things can be a real distraction for us making our Advent preparations and celebrating once again the coming of God into his world on that first Christmas Day. It can be difficult to reconcile all this, with what's going on.

Thankfully God knows what he is doing! It is no mistake that God comes to be with us, in the form of a helpless poor baby. The scriptures describe him as Emmanuel (God with us) who comes at the darkest time of the year. It is this helpless baby, who came to bring light, life, healing, and wholeness to all the dark places of the world and to our lives.

It is precisely because of this, that in whatever circumstance we may find ourselves, we can and should rejoice in God's wonderful gift to us in his Son Jesus Christ. Christmas is a time to remember, to give thanks, as well as to give and to receive, and to celebrate in the most special and precious ways with those we love and those around us. We are called to be that light shining for Christ. To be that special gift to all whom we meet.

I do like that Christmas is a celebration of the 'Light of the World' coming among us, to be with us, to experience what we experience, bringing hope for today and tomorrow; God's love shining in the darkness. Yes, it is a season of excess, but rather than material excess, it is a celebration of an excess of love, freely given to all who put their trust in Jesus, the light of the world.

May He be your light, your love, joy, peace, and your hope as you journey on.

Blessings and peace

Charles

Rev Charles Dale

A staff member of the Uttoxeter Area of Parishes

Church News

The Uttoxeter Area of Parishes
Parish Church of St. Lawrence Bramshall

Vicar Revd John Lander
revjsl@btinternet.com or tel: 565228

Services for December

4 th Dec	11.00am	Holy Communion
11 th Dec	4.00pm	Carol Service
18 th Dec	11.00am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Christingle
24 th Dec (Christmas Eve)	11.15pm	Midnight Eucharist
25 th Dec (Christmas Day)	10.00am	Holy Communion

Sidespersons Rota:	4 th	Mrs C Postlethwaite
	11 th	Mrs M Jones
	18 th	Mrs SA Lander
	24 th	Volunteer
	25 th	Volunteer



**The Revd John and SallyAnne Lander
wish everyone a
Peaceful & Blessed Christmas, and all good
wishes for a very Happy New Year.**

Carol Service

We will be holding our traditional service of Readings and Carols for Christmas on Sunday 11th December at 4pm. Following the service, we shall be making the Hamper Draw and also the Big December 100 Club draw so do hope you can join us.



From the Registers:

Funeral:

Friday 4th November

Graham William DYCHE

Baptism

Sunday 13th November

Hanoria Elise Gill-Holt



Hanoria with parents Vanessa & Tristan and big brother Vincent.

John & SallyAnne's granddaughters Hattie and Edie Johnson were baptised (by Revd John) at Marchington church - pictured here with their parents Adam & Claire.



Christingle Service

Sunday 18th December at 4pm we are holding our Christingle Service a family time to be reminded of the importance of Christmas, and to help build up to the big day. Children can dress up in nativity clothes if they so wish and help make the Christingles during the service.

FESTIVE CUPPA

Glenda will be hosting her much looked forward to “festive cuppa” at Bowmore House, Stone Road (just over the level crossing on the right) on Wednesday 7th December between 2 – 4pm. Please do pop along and enjoy a chat over a lovely cuppa and cake.

BRAMSHALL LITTLE TREASURES

On Friday 11th November the little ones at Toddler Group enjoyed colouring in poppies and wearing them.



CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

If anyone is willing to support this charity by having a box at home to pop loose change in over 2023 please contact Carole Postlethwaite on 563982. Please note we shall be giving the collection from our Christingle Service on Sunday 18th December to this worthy charity and if we are able to hold a small crib service for our Bramshall Little Treasures on Friday 16th December then that collection will go to it too. Bramshall Parochial Church Council then add their yearly donation. Please support if you can. Thank you.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Uttoxeter Area of Parishes, (which Bramshall is one of ten parishes) is running a Confirmation course in the New Year. Confirmation is for anyone now in School Year 5 up to adults. If you would like to have more information please contact Rev. John asap. Thank you.

LENT COURSE 2023

We are planning a Lent course for 2023 and would like to know who might interested in joining us so we have a rough idea on where to meet and material to obtain. In the first instance please have a word with Rev John (565228 or 07706-058689)

ST LAWRENCE CHURCHYARD IN BRAMSHALL

We have just been informed that Bramshall Churchyard has received GOLD Award in the best Kept Churchyard competition in the Lichfield Diocese and also a Nature Friendly Award. The Churchyard was judged between May and September by different judges and at the end they sent their complimentary comments on trying different ideas like planting an area of wildflowers. The hot weather did not assist us with this, but they did come up and flower if only for a short while. We have now been given new ideas to try next year.

Thanks must go to the parishioners who have helped with the nature trail and the village tidy up – having the village backup gave us a really big start to the competition, and also in conjunction with the URPC (Uttoxeter Rural Parish Council) SJL who kindly work with us on the huge grass area we have to maintain. Thank you to all.

Some suggested gardening jobs for this month

Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds

Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging -In wet weather, raise pots up off the ground on 'feet' or similar to keep the bottom of the pot out of the water and prevent the compost freezing.

Prune leggy roses to prevent damage from severe winter winds

Insulate outdoor containers from frost damage, particularly terracota pots, with either bubblewrap, fleece, or old material.

Clean any bird feeders regularly to help keep the birds healthy. Feeding the birds will help to keep their energy levels up and encourage winter birds into the garden.





BRAMSHALL AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

At October's meeting, we were pleased to welcome the designer of Endon's well dressing, Robert Barlow, to speak about the well dressing custom. It apparently started in 1615 in Tissington when there had been a prolonged drought the previous year. All the wells for the village dried up apart from one so the people decided to have an annual service around the well to ask for God's blessing on it. The custom quickly spread to other villages and, surprisingly, is now present from Morecambe to Kent, although it is much more common in the peak District area.

The techniques used have not changed over the centuries. A framed set of large wooden boards is covered in clay and a design, originally painted on paper, is transferred to it, in much enlarged form. It is kept continually wet for several days whilst petals and flowers are pressed into it to make the various coloured areas.

Well dressing celebrations were particularly popular in the 19th century, and, with the coming of the railway, the 1872 Endon well dressing apparently had 2000 people in attendance. Robert brought along many photographs of well dressing designs from various villages and the Endon well dressing, which has been going for 175 years, is by far the largest and requires 400 man-hours to accomplish.

The December meeting will be the Christmas dinner, organised for Monday 12th December and the new year will begin with a presentation by Clive Tuck on the 'The Marvels of South America'. This will take place at Bramshall Parish Hall on Monday 30th January 2023 at 7:30pm.

Please put this date in your diary and don't forget - Gardening Club members can claim a 10% discount at the Strawberry Garden Centre on purchases above £10 (excluding discounted items) – just present 2022-23 Membership Card.

100 CLUB WINNERS November

1 st	No.186	David Bufton	£30
2 nd	No. 124	Joyce McCann	£25
3 rd	No.12	Noreen Eyre	£20
4 th	No.165	David Brookes	£15

Next Month is a Super Draw with prizes totalling £180

100 CLUB 2023

We finish year 15 on the 31st December 2022, and thank you to all who have taken part in this fund-raising initiative - we are now hoping that you would like to continue your support by renewing your membership for 2023.

For those new to the village – whether you have a direct connection with Church or not – this can be a way of showing your care and support by purchasing a number for £12 (or more if you are feeling very generous!). We pay out half the proceeds in winnings and the other half is put towards keeping our lovely church in the condition it is in at the moment.

The cost remains at £12 for the year for each number (£1 per month up front) and follows the usual format of monthly draws with the winners being notified and their names published in the Bramshall News Sheet.

Cheques should be made payable to: **Bramshall 100 Club**, placed in an envelope stating your **name, address, phone & email address please** and given to Rev John Lander, 9 Overcroft or phone 565228 to arrange collection. For those of you who are more technically proficient (and there seems to be quite a lot who are) you may pay directly into the 100 Club Account. For this option please use: **Natwest, Uttoxeter Sort Code 60-22-09 Account 64540138 Bramshall 100 Club and use your surname as the reference please.**

An email to sallyannelander@gmail.com confirming your payment would be **exceedingly helpful, especially if you are a new member – we can then allocate your number(s).**

Penny's Recipe of the Month

Oven baked chicken with Garlic and Parmesan

4 thighs or chicken legs,
4 cloves of garlic,
2 eggs,
2tblsp of finely chopped fresh parsley,
20oz fresh breadcrumbs,
2 oz parmesan cheese,
2 oz butter,
4tblsp oil(sunflower or olive).



Place chicken in flat dish, crush garlic and add to eggs, whisk well and pour over chicken joints.

Cover dish and put in fridge for 4hours.

Preheat oven to 350deg and then put roasting tin with butter and oil to warm.

Mix breadcrumbs, parsley plus grated parmesan on plate, take chicken and coat in the mixture.

Place in the roasting tin and baste chicken.

Bake the chicken on a high shelf in the oven for 20mins.

Turn the chicken after the 20 mins and then put back in oven for another 20mins, after which pour off the excess fat and pop back in oven for a further five minutes.

Serve with a mixed salad . Hope you enjoy.

Penny

VILLAGE DISTRIBUTORS

John and SallyAnne would like to say a huge thanks to the volunteers who distribute the news sheet each month in all weathers, and also for those who offer to do the task when people are on holiday too – we really appreciate your support. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

(If anyone else would be willing to step in occasionally please let us know!)
Thanks

CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT THE OLD RECTORY

Come along to the Old Rectory Care Home on **Sunday 4th December** from **2.00 – 5.00pm** where there will be a Christmas Fayre.

In addition to a raffle, there will be a tombola, a cake stall, and several other stall holders – and Santa will be making an appearance.



UTTOXETER GATEWAY CLUB

Uttoxeter Gateway Club is a social club and charity for adults aged 18 and over with learning disabilities. They meet every Tuesday evening at Wilfred House from 6.30 to 8.30pm. All in a safe and caring environment so for more information do contact Paul Nixon (07801-079515) or Di Neary (07810-146250)

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DIGGING INTO THE PAST 1942

BRAMSHALL PARISH PCC MEETING

The Annual Vestry Meeting was held on April 24th 1941 in the Parish Hall at 7.45pm.

Present: Rev W E Charlton BA in the chair and opened the meeting with prayer.

Mesdames: H Durose, H Statham, V Talbot,

Messrs: J C DeVille, F. Searle, (Wardens) H Potter, H Durose, J E Ward, J Adams, D Ward, J R Statham, J W Sargeant, E J Brown, E J Whittaker, R Whittaker, J H Lindop, G Talbot and the Rev. G D Prime.

An apology was received from Mr J H Statham.

Minutes -The minutes of the last Vestry were read, confirmed, and signed.

The Vicar expressed his gratitude to all who had worked for the Church so loyally and well during the past year, especially the Churchwardens who were resigning after several years in office. Mr DeVille in reply assured the meeting what a pleasure it had always been to them and thanked the Vicar for his kind remarks.

Before proceeding to the appointment of new wardens the Chairman took the opportunity of pointing out that there was no such thing as Vicar's Warden and People's Warden – but that if the Vicar did not approve of the appointments made by the Vestry meeting, he had the right to intervene.

Election of Wardens - Following this on the proposition of Mr DeVille and another from Mr Searle, Mr J E Ward and Mr G Talbot were elected as Churchwardens for the ensuing year.

This concluded the business of the Vestry meeting.

W E Charlton

10/4/42

BRAMSHALL PARISH PCC MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting was held on 24th April 1941 immediately after the Vestry and the same company present in the Parish Hall.

Minutes - The minutes of the last Annual meeting read, confirmed and signed.

Ruridecanal/ Diocesan / Archideaconal Conferences:

Mrs G Talbot was elected, proposed by Mrs Statham, seconded by Mr J E Ward and carried.

Church Council - The Church Council on the proposition of Mr DeVille who was seconded by Mr H Durose was re-elected en bloc as in 1940 minutes.

Vice Chairman - Mr J H Statham was again elected Vice Chairman proposed by Mr R Whittaker seconded by Mr J H Lindop.

Secretary - Mr J DeVille was elected Secretary, proposed by Mr R Whittaker seconded by J E Ward.

Auditor - Mr R Whittaker on the proposition of Mr J C DeVille and seconded by Mr F Searle was re-elected to this office.

Sidesmen - The Sidesmen were re-elected as before with the addition of Messrs DeVille, Searle, E J Brown and D Ward. Mr D Steele who was at present serving in the forces was to be kept on the list of sidesmen.

Accounts - When the accounts were presented, they showed a balance of £56.0.9 as against a balance in the previous year of £26.13.8 but of this balance £9.6.9 was the balance of the Sick & Poor Fund. Mr J H Lindop in expressing great satisfaction with the accounts moved that they be adopted, this being seconded by Mr J E Ward – was passed. **Reserve Fund** - Mr Lindop then proposed that £25 be put into a reserve fund this year to meet future expenses such as decorating etc and that an amount to be decided upon in future years, according to the balance, be similarly invested. This was seconded by Mr DeVille and carried by the meeting.

With regard to the investment the Vicar pointed out that the Government would not accept money for investment from such a body as a Church Council, but from a Building Society (and the money so invested would be free of tax). It was therefore proposed by Mr DeVille that the £25 be invested in the Leek & Moorlands Building Society. This was seconded by Mr J W Sargeant and carried.

Church Insurance - The Vicar raised the question of whether the meeting considered that the sum of £4000 for which the Church was insured against fire was sufficient to meet the present cost of the building, furnishings etc? After discussion Mr J E Ward seconded by Mr J H Lindop proposed the insurance be increased by £1000.

Gifts to the Church - Mention was made by the Rev G D Prime of the gift of an Invalids Chair for the use of anyone in the parish having been given by Mr DeVille and of a portable wireless for the use of sick people who did not possess one – this having been given through the Young Peoples Club. Mr J W Sargeant proposed a vote of thanks for these gifts.

Bishops Appeal - The Vicar spoke of the very satisfactory response to this appeal by the people of Bramshall who had just contributed £70 up to date. The Vicar explained that during the war commitments had to be carried out under the Building Scheme – but apart from the buying of suitable site for the future – the funds were being reserved.

Sunday School - It was again decided to grant £5 to the Sunday School for some form of treat for the children.

Communicants - The number of communicants during 1940 was thought to be the largest recorded in recent years being 600.

Harvest Collections - It was proposed by Mr DeVille and seconded by Mr Durose that as last year the Harvest collections be divided between the Missions to Seamen and the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

Organist - Mr Potter announced that he had had to register for military service – but it was decided by the meeting that – in the hope he would not be called up – nothing should be done about the matter as yet.

Cheques - It was proposed by Mr Lindop and seconded by Mr R Whittaker that the two new Churchwardens and the Secretary be appointed to sign the cheques – two signatures being sufficient.

The Mothers Union - Mr DeVille supported by Mr Lindop proposed a vote of thanks to the members of the Mothers Union and other ladies who kept the Church so well and provided the altar flowers. Sympathy was expressed with Mrs Lindop in her long illness.

There being no further business the Vicar closed the meeting with prayer.

W E Charlton

10/04/42

WE WISH YOU A WASTE-FREE CHRISTMAS

Traditionally known as a time forgiving, in recent times Christmas has certainly become known as a time for wasting too.

What can we do to reverse the trend?

Cut back on Cards

- Send an e-card or social media/Whatsapp message
- Get cards that can be recycled, so no glitter, glue, sequins or bows/ribbons
- Write messages on one display board/card at work/school & donate to charity instead
- Save some for next year's gift tags.



Re-think presents

Make homemade cakes and biscuits as presents

Go for an alternative gift - e.g. plant a tree, adopt an animal

Go for a gift experience - e.g. theatre/gig tickets, days out etc

Buy rechargeable batteries for presents rather than single use

Donate unwanted presents rather than throwing them away.



Right some wrapping wrongs

Get rid of packaging and wrapping paper altogether, using a reusable sack, gift bag/box or even a scarf/piece of festive fabric

Use recycled brown paper, paper bags, newspaper or old wallpaper

Avoid plastic/foil wrap, which can't be recycled. Do the Scrunch Test; if you scrunch and it bounces back, then it's made of plastic.

Food's not rubbish!

Plan your Christmas meals in advance, write a shopping list and check what you already have to avoid duplications

Use the Love Food Hate Waste portion calculator when cooking for large groups

Freeze your leftovers in single meal portions as they will freeze faster and defrost quicker

Compost your fruit and veg waste. Even in winter, you can still add uncooked food waste to your compost bin. You can compost in winter with a HotBin or insulated wormery.

Find recipes by typing leftover ingredients on websites like BBC's GoodFood or Yummly.

Tree tips

Get your real tree from a sustainable grower and plant it in your garden for next year

If you buy an artificial tree, get a good quality one and keep using it!

Recycle your real tree at your local recycling centre or through a charity collection service

Out with the old...

If you're replacing electrical goods, look for shops that 'take back' too

Take used batteries to collection points

Can your item be repaired for free at your local Repair Café?

Donate to charity shops or re-use organisations, sell online or take to your local Household Recycling Centre.

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Contact Lee Edwards on 07983262558 or 622970

NEWS SHEET BACK COPIES

If anyone would like to look at old news sheet copies please let me know – each month we have a few left over and it seems a shame to throw them. We started the idea in 2008 but think I have from 2010 onwards so do shout up if you would like to have a few. (SallyAnne 565228)

Quiz answers:

1. Coronation Street
2. 28th December, Holy Innocents Day
3. Britain's first motorway
4. Silent Night, Holy Night
5. Workers from England and France met in what would become the Channel Tunnel

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We look forward to hearing from you.