

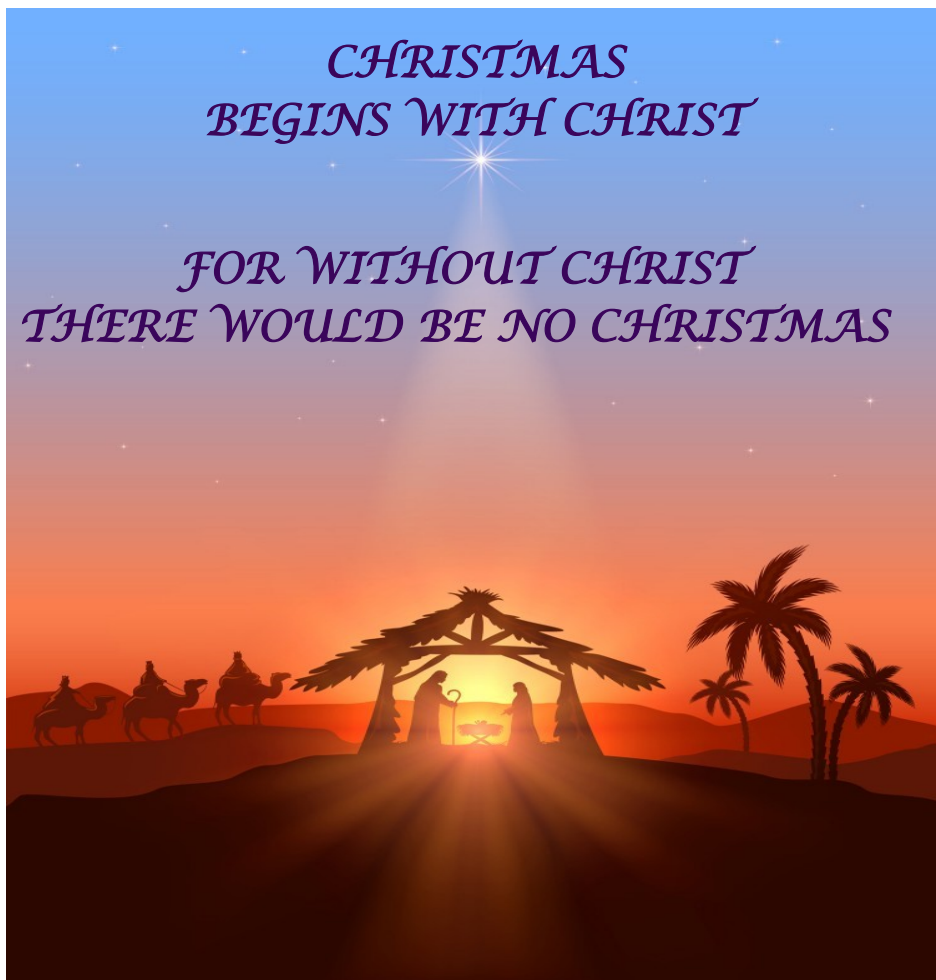
# Voice



St Bartholomew's  
Crewkerne

*CHRISTMAS  
BEGINS WITH CHRIST*

*FOR WITHOUT CHRIST  
THERE WOULD BE NO CHRISTMAS*



Parish Magazine for  
**Crewkerne, Hewish,  
Wayford and Clapton**

Dec 2022/Jan 2023  
£1 per copy



Wulfric  
Benefice

## **Sunday Services at St Bartholomew's**

<b>December 4th</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
<b>December 11th</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
<b>December 18th</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
	<b>6.00pm Carol Service</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>4.00pm Christingle</b>
	<b>11.30pm Midnight Communion</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
<b>January 1st</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
<b>January 8th</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
<b>January 15th</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
<b>January 22nd</b>	<b>11am All Age Service</b>
	<b>6pm Holy Communion</b>
<b>January 29th</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
<b>Holy Communion (BCP) each Wednesday at 10.30 am</b>	

## **Services at Wayford**

<b>December 4th</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>
<b>December 18th</b>	<b>4pm Carol Service</b>
<b>December 24th</b>	<b>11.30pm Midnight Eucharist</b>
<b>January 1st</b>	<b>Benefice service at St Bartholomew's</b>
<b>January 15th</b>	<b>9.30 Holy Communion</b>

## **Services at Hewish**

<b>December 4th</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>
<b>December 18th</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
<b>December 19th</b>	<b>Carols by Candlelight 7pm</b>
<b>January 1st.</b>	<b>Benefice Service at St Bartholomew's</b>
<b>January 15th</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>

## FROM THE RECTOR

Have you ever dived down into deep water?

*“Down ... into the pitch black, cold, freezing water, down into the mud and slime, then up again, [the diver’s] lungs almost bursting, back again to the green and warm and sunlit water, and then at last out into the sunshine, holding in his hand the dripping thing he went down to get”.*



In his essay, “The Grand Miracle”, CS Lewis pictures Christ as the great Diver who has come down to rescue us. It is a apt image as Christmas approaches, since it was at first Christmas that Jesus began to brave our muddy, slimy and freezing world.

That seems a particularly good description of the world this year – with ongoing post-Covid uncertainty, economic and energy crises, and war and its real risk of spreading (missiles landing in Poland and G20 world leaders being called from their beds to take counsel). The UK seems particularly hard hit.

Some of us, of course, may say, “Don’t be so serious at Christmas time – we need to forget and escape!” And I certainly intend to enjoy Christmas...

But the Christian faith urges us to go much further. It tells us that we do ourselves great harm if we make “Christmas” into a tiny, transient man-made haven in the freezing mud – rather than facing the mess that we are in and taking the hand of the Diver.

The fact is that our new and grimmer experience of the world is nothing like as bad as it is for many others, and overall our story makes grim reading. The human race, for all its technology, creativity and philanthropy has never found a way out of the mess of human life. We seem ever to be the problem more than we are the solution.

Again, the Christian faith reminds us that we are stuck in the dark and cold that we create – but that there is a Diver who still holds out his hand to take us up and out. John’s Gospel puts it like this: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”

So, Happy Christmas 2022! May it be a great time of rest and good cheer – but, even more, a time to find, and re-find, the rescue and the goodness of Christ.

With warm best wishes and prayers

CJ

**Christopher (CJ) Davis**



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**Computer Group** – Tuesdays 10am – 12:00noon. Help with laptops, tablets, and phones.

**Henhayes Knitters** – Tuesday 2pm – 4pm – knit & natter session with tea/coffee & biscuits

**Yoga - Beginners & Mixed Ability** – Thursdays from 9:15am. To aid the body & mind.

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Irvin Johns—Tel 01460 73738  
[patirvinjohns@btinternet.com](mailto:patirvinjohns@btinternet.com)



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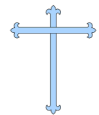
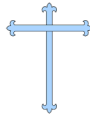
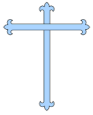
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# FROM OUR REGISTERS

## Funerals

We extend our sincere condolences to the  
family and friends of  
*Sylvia Mary Powell*  
*Barbara Marina Caddy*  
*Carole Barker*



Bless those who mourn, eternal God,  
with the comfort of your love  
that they may face each new day with hope  
and the certainty that nothing can destroy  
the good that has been given.  
May their memories become joyful,  
their days enriched with friendship,  
and their lives encircled by your love.

Amen.



## **St Michael & All Angels, Wayford**

The hedgerows and woods around the village are looking beautiful now they have turned into their full autumnal colours.

Our Service for Remembrance Sunday was blessed with a lovely morning, so different from the recent bad weather. It was very well attended and our thanks to Richard Coley for laying the wreath on the memorial.

**Looking at December, our Carol Service will be on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies and Midnight Eucharist at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.**

If anyone would like to attend any of the services but requires transport, please contact Richard and Ferrie Coley (279696).

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Julia and Mike



**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD HEWISH  
December 4th 9,30 Holy Communion  
December 18th 11am Holy Communion  
Monday December 19th Carols by Candlelight**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Crewkerne Churches Together** invite all to join in the carol singing in Falkland Square precinct this Christmas. We will be in the square at 10.30 am on the 17th December singing traditional carols, and this year, collecting for Children's Hospice South West. This has always had a good reception and is a reminder of the real Christmas story and an encouragement to come and sing in our churches.



### Wayford Parish Council

Allotments Plots are available to rent

Please contact The Clerk at [wayfordpc@talktalk.net](mailto:wayfordpc@talktalk.net)

or phone 01460 53378

Or speak to any Parish Councillor

**Film Crew Friday 9th December - 7:30PM - Ali & Ava (2022) (15).** BAFTA nominated British film, telling the story of ALI and AVA who meet through their shared affection for the child of ALI's Slovakian tenants, whom AVA teaches. ALI finds comfort in AVA's warmth and kindness and AVA finds ALI's complexity and humour irresistible. However, the legacy of AVA's past relationship and ALI's emotional turmoil at the breakdown of his marriage begins to overshadow their newfound passion... Doors open at 19:00, film starts at 19:30. Visitors fee, £6 payable on the door.



**CUDOS - PANTO ALL OVER THE WORLD - Victoria Hall, Crewkerne - 25th - 28th January 2023 at 7.30 pm, matinee 28th January at 2.30 pm. Tickets £10, £8 concessions, available from [www.cudoscrewkerne.com](http://www.cudoscrewkerne.com) or 01460 74380**

## Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

**South Somerset Youth Orchestra & Friends** will perform a concert, including seasonal music, on Friday 2nd December at 7pm. All are welcome; it would be helpful to know numbers for catering purposes. £5 includes mince pies and mulled wine or a soft drink in the interval (children free). Booking & further information from Mary (01460 74849) or Barbara (01460 73713)

**Festive Coffee Morning** – Wednesday 14th December, 10.30am – mid-day, with mince pies, scones, bacon/egg rolls. Please note this is the 2nd Wednesday, rather than the 3rd Wednesday. All are welcome; please come along to meet friends, neighbours & visitors for a social morning in a warm and friendly hall with disabled facilities, ample parking and a lovely view. Details from Julia (01460 72769)

**Coffee Morning** – Wednesday 18th January, 10.30am – mid-day, with bacon/egg rolls, scones, cakes etc. All are welcome; please come along to meet friends, neighbours & visitors for a social morning in a warm and friendly hall with disabled facilities, ample parking and a lovely view. Details from Julia (01460 72769)

**Sew, Knit & Natter** - takes place on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10.30am; the next two meetings will be on 7th December and 4th January 2023. All are welcome; details from Julia (01460 72769)

**Clapton & Wayford Film Society –Thursday 1st December**, showing 2018 American film 'Green Book' (12; 130 mins). Memorable & feel good, exploring an unexpected bond crossing the race divide in 1962.

**Thursday 5th January 2023**, showing 2000 'The Gleaners & I' (PG; 82 mins). Agnes Varda French film inspired by the 1867 Millet painting.

Doors open & refreshments on sale from 6.45pm; film starts at 7.30pm prompt. Ample parking, disabled facilities, level access. New members very welcome; membership subscriptions taken any time; guest tickets, £5. Details from Mick (01460 74849) or Di (01460 30508)

**Jumble Sale** – Saturday 28th January at 2pm. Contributions very welcome and may be brought to the hall between 10am & mid-day on 28th. Help with transporting items may be possible; please phone to enquire. Details from Jackie (01460 72324) or Mary (01460 74849).



## THE BISHOP'S LETTER



**His light is never extinguished** As 2022 comes to a close, our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine whose country was invaded by Russia on the 24 February this year. In the months since, we have watched in horror as civilians, cities and infrastructure have been attacked, land occupied and atrocities committed.

The UK has received more than 100,000 people fleeing from the conflict. The gift of their presence among us reminds us that this is no “quarrel in a far away country, between people of whom we know nothing”.

As we recall once again the coming into the world of Jesus at Christmas, our challenge is to connect our celebration of his birth with the realities and consequences of the conflict that is happening. Sadly, it’s not hard to see the links. Jesus was born in a land (Palestine) that had been annexed by an expansionist foreign power (Rome) in pursuit of its territorial ambitions. The demands of the Roman occupiers meant that Jesus’ birth happened not at home in Nazareth, but at a counting centre - Bethlehem. He was born in a stable because ‘there was no room at the inn’. While still a baby, Jesus became a refugee when taken to Egypt due to warnings of atrocities to come.

Viewed this way, the Christmas story is no sentimental fable. It is a brutal foreshadowing of the events that Ukraine and our whole world have encountered this year. At the same time, it is also a story of hope. For it tells us that even in the very worst that can happen the Christ child whose birth we celebrate knows all too well the realities of the human condition. As a result, in any darkness his light is never extinguished. For he is Emmanuel – God with us.

So as we come to the end of 2022 we give thanks that God is always with us in whatever we face. May he be with Ukraine. May he be with Russia. And may he be welcomed by us all.

A very happy Christmas,  
Michael

***Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells***

# ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**December 18th Carol Service 6pm**

**Christmas Eve Christingle 4pm**

**Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11.30 pm**

**Christmas Day Holy Communion 11am**



## MOTHERS' UNION



**Join us for Christmas Tea and Carols  
on December 6th at 3pm in the Church Hall.**

**Plenty of savouries and cakes.**

**Rose will be playing the music for us.**

**All friends and family warmly invited**





## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

*Nehemiah said "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord"*

*Nehemiah 8:10*



### AMERICAN CHRISTMAS FRUIT CAKE



250g Dates , pitted  
250g glace pineapple  
125g glace apricots



125g each of red and green glace cherries

250g Brazil nuts

2 eggs

100g brown sugar

1 tablespoon rum

1 teaspoon vanilla essence

90g butter softened

75g plain flour

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

pinch of salt

12 tablespoons rum or brandy, extra



Preheat the oven to 150 degrees C. Grease and line a 23 x 12 cm loaf tin.

Chop the dates, pineapple and apricots into fairly large pieces, but leave the cherries and nuts whole. Mix well.

Beat the eggs until light and fluffy, add the sugar, rum, vanilla and soft butter. Continue beating until well blended.

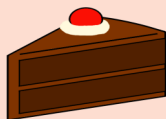
Sift the flour with the baking powder and salt, add to the creamed mixture with the fruit and nuts, and mix well. Spoon into the prepared tin.

Bake for approximately 90 minutes, or until the cake is firm to touch and a skewer comes out clean.

The cake may have a surface layer of melted butter - on cooling this will settle and moisten the cake.

Remove from the oven, and while still hot, pour extra rum or brandy over. Cool in the tin standing on a wire rack.

# *St Bart's Coffee Pot*



*Wednesday  
December 14th  
at 11am in the church hall*

*Come and join us for a chat over  
coffee, tea and scrumptious cakes.*



*Bring a friend,  
all are welcome.*



*All you need is love and a cup of coffee*

## PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH

*May the blessing of joy abide within you;  
May the blessing of peace rest upon you;  
May the blessing of love flow out through you;  
May all the blessings of the Lord be yours at  
Christmas and in the new year.—*



ImageVine  
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*Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful  
New Year*

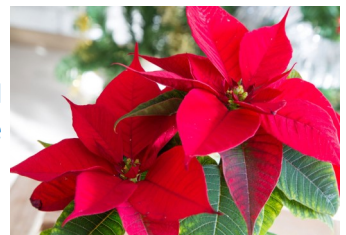


**God of compassion, Have mercy this day on the people of Ukraine.** Restore to them the gift of peace. Grant wisdom to the governments of the world. Bring good in the midst of evil and suffering, For the sake of Jesus Christ your Son, Who gave his life to bring peace to your world.

## CHURCH FLOWERS

If you would like to get involved or sponsor a special arrangement, please contact Jean Strong for more details on 01460 77632

Thank you



## A GLIMPSE AT THE MOTHERS' UNION AROUND THE WORLD

**Mothers' Union** is an international Christian membership movement supporting families and communities in need of support in the UK and worldwide since 1876, and is active in 84 countries and works tirelessly to serve their communities whilst offering Christian care for families, regardless of faith or background.

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Most MU members in the Diocese of **Aipo Rongo** are rural village women, who have very little or no education. They live in the toughest terrain; high mountains, deep gorges and valleys prevent them from accessing essential basic services, such as roads and communication systems. However, this does not prevent them from their weekly prayer meetings and being part of Mothers' Union.

In the Diocese of **Dogura**, women engaged in art and craft are finding markets overseas to sell their products, empowered to become self sustaining to alleviate poverty and improve their livelihoods. They develop values, self worth and self-confidence, finding their rightful place in their society so that men may not continue to suppress them.

### SOUTH SUDAN

The country is caught up in political and tribal conflict; the male population are sadly killed or are made jobless due to displacement. This means many of the households in South Sudan are now female led. Mothers' Union members have been in the heart of the communities holding life changing workshops. With the confidence of their new found literacy brings, women are able to tackle their new responsibilities, both in their personal lives and to benefit the wider community.

Bringing the various tribes together across South Sudan to take part in the workshops not only teaches them valuable life skills, but unites conflicting tribes together, promoting peace between them.

So, here in Crewkerne we try to help with prayer and donations when we can.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm in the church hall. Join us for our Christmas Tea on December 6th at 3pm.



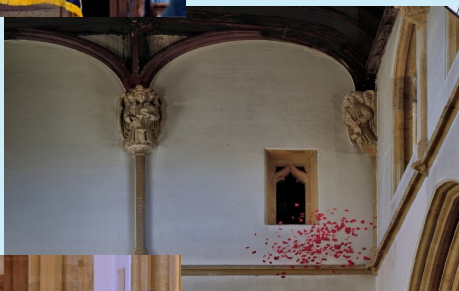
Aipo Rongo



South Sudan



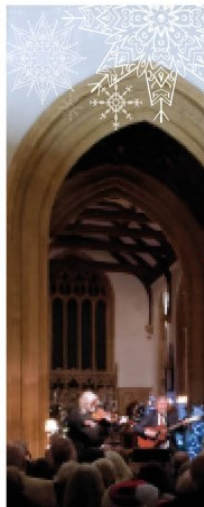
# REMEMBRANCE DAY AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S





Arts @ St Bart's presents

# The 14th Midwinter Concert



**Reg Meuross**  
with Special Guest  
**Phil Beer**



**Doors and Bar open 6.45pm**

Reg and Phil create another magical evening performing solo and together.

Plus Mince Pies, Raffle and a few Carols.

**St. Bartholomew's Church, Crewkerne**

**Friday 16th December, 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Tickets: £15, Children under 14: £5**

Available from

Crewkerne Information Centre  
in the Town Hall, Market Square

Geraldine Clotworthy on 01460 76058  
or email [geraldine@clotworthy.co.uk](mailto:geraldine@clotworthy.co.uk)



Read updates on our  
Facebook Event page.

# THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING,  
AS NO-ONE IN THE  
MUSIC GROUP CAN  
PLAY THE GUITAR

FIVE GOLD  
BISHOPS' RINGS  
IN THE SAFE  
IN THE VESTRY

FOUR CALLING  
BIRDS BEING  
SILENCED BY A  
CHURCHWARDEN

A PARTRIDGE  
IN A PEAR  
TREE - THE  
VERGER FORGOT  
TO ORDER  
A CHRISTMAS  
TREE

TWO TURTLE DOVES  
TRAPPED IN  
THE ROOF

TWELVE DRUMMERS  
DRUMMING, TO THE  
CONSTERNATION OF  
THE CHOIR

SIX GEESE  
A-LAYING  
IN THE  
ECO-AREA  
OF THE  
CHURCHYARD

EIGHT MAIDS  
WHO HAD BEEN  
A-MILKING, BUT  
WHO MANAGED  
TO COMPLETE  
THEIR DUTIES  
IN TIME FOR  
THE 10AM

TEN LORDS  
A-LEAPING  
OVER THE  
MOAT DUG  
BY THE  
YOUTH GROUP

THREE FRENCH HENS -  
PROPS FOR THE  
SUNDAY SCHOOL PLAY

NINE LADIES DANCING  
DURING ONE OF THE  
MORE MODERN CHORUSES

SEVEN SWANS  
A-SWIMMING  
IN THE FONT



A mother was teaching her three-year old the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime the little girl repeated the prayer after her mother. One night she said she was ready to say it by herself. The mother listened with pride as her child carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us some E-mail. Amen."

# Word Search - The Story of Jesus' Birth

Circle the words in **red**.



## Luke 1:26-28

And in the sixth month the **angel Gabriel** was sent from **God** unto a city of **Galilee**, named **Nazareth**,

To a **virgin** espoused to a man whose name was **Joseph**, of the house of **David**; and the virgin's name was **Mary**.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, **Hail**, thou that art highly favoured, the **Lord** is with thee: **blessed** art thou among women.

## Luke 2:7

Mary "brought forth her firstborn **son**, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a **manger**;"

## Luke 2:15

"the **shepherds** said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass,"

## Luke 2:36-38

**Anna** was a prophetess who recognized that the infant **Jesus** was the Messiah.

## Matt 2:1,2

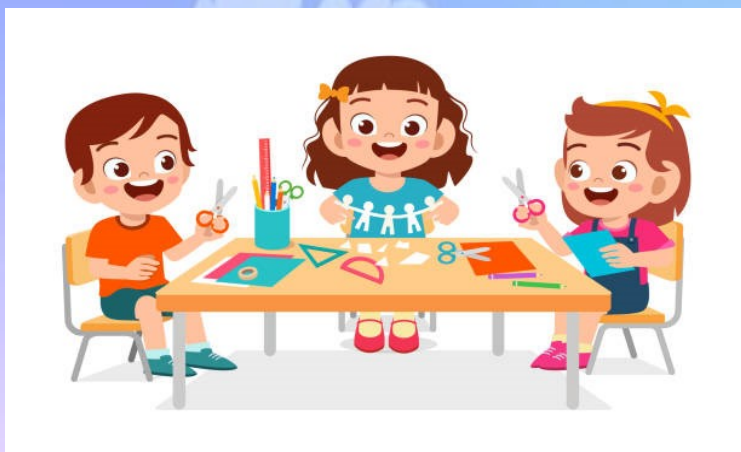
...there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the **Jews**? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

a	n	a	z	a	r	e	t	h	b
g	a	l	i	l	e	e	c	a	m
o	d	a	n	g	e	l	e	i	a
d	f	h	d	a	v	i	d	l	n
j	e	w	s	b	m	a	r	y	g
e	s	l	o	r	d	t	u	v	e
s	w	b	n	i	a	n	n	a	r
u	j	o	s	e	p	h	n	m	b
s	u	n	b	l	e	s	s	e	d
v	i	r	g	i	n	t	b	l	e
s	h	e	p	h	e	r	d	s	m

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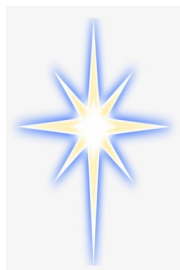
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Masks must be worn, social distancing maintained, hand sanitiser used and track and trace records kept.





THE SHEPHERDS VISIT BABY JESUS  
You can read the bible story Luke2: 8-20



Some shepherds, who lived near Bethlehem, were out at night in their fields watching over their sheep. They were worried a bigger animal might come and hurt the sheep, so they sat on a hill watching their sheep together.

Suddenly, there was a bright light. Now this wasn't just any bright light. The light was so bright that the shepherds had to close their eyes for a minute because the light hurt their eyes. When they opened their eyes to see what was going on, a beautiful angel was standing in the air just above them with his arms opened wide.

The shepherds looked at each other in disbelief, but realized it must be real because they were all seeing the same thing. All at once they were very afraid, but they didn't run because they were too stunned.

Then the angel spoke to them: "Do not be afraid. I'm here to bring you good news for all people. Today in Bethlehem, a baby has been born, He is the one that will save the world. You will know the baby because He will be wrapped in cloths, and laying in a manger."

Suddenly, just as quickly as the first angel came, there were a large group of angels who together said, "Glory to God, and peace to all people on earth." After they spoke, they floated away.

The shepherds were amazed and excited. Did everyone know this news, or just them? They had to go see this baby the angels were talking about. They ran as fast as they could, and soon found Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. The shepherds fell to their knees when they saw Jesus. They were filled with joy that they had found the Lord. The shepherds only stayed for a few minutes because they realized that Mary needed to sleep. As soon as they left, they began shouting in the streets and telling everyone they met about what they had seen, and about the arrival of baby Jesus.

Mary sat and watched Jesus sleep. She was so happy. She was thinking about what it would be like when her son got older, and what an important person He was.

## Services

**Details of services at our churches will be found inside the front cover.**

We will post the new service schedule on our website and Facebook page. If you wish to receive regular parish emails please email the office.

For details about planning Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals please contact 1460 72047, e-mail [admin@stbartscrewkerne.org](mailto:admin@stbartscrewkerne.org) The clergy are always available to call you by phone.

If you need help or would like prayers  
please leave a message

01460 72047, [admin@stbartscrewkerne.org](mailto:admin@stbartscrewkerne.org)

The Rector Revd Christopher Davis 01460 72047

Very Revd. Bob Key, Honorary Assistant Priest 07932 718988

Revd. David Newman Honorary Assistant Priest 01460  
271496

Mrs Christine Newman, Churchwarden– 01460 271496

Mrs Pippa Smith, Churchwarden 01460 77342

## MOTHERS' UNION

Regular monthly meeting 3rd Tuesday of the  
month in the Church Hall  
Branch Leader: Ann Cossins {01460 74330}



## Voice – your Parish Magazine

From the  
Editor

If you would like to be involved in **Voice**, then please email the editor, June Cox at, [stbartsvoice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stbartsvoice@hotmail.co.uk). If you have comments or suggestions on any church matters please email or [admin@stbartscrewkerne.org](mailto:admin@stbartscrewkerne.org)

### **The next deadline is 12 noon on January 18th 2023**

**Voice** is published by the PCCs of Crewkerne with Hewish, and Wayford, and printed professionally. We are grateful to our dedicated distributors. If you would like to assist contact the church office in the first instance.

To receive copies regularly please contact June Cox {74537} or sign the list at the back of the church. Let them know if you have a new neighbour who might be interested to receive **Voice**. Our team of distributors will collect payments, £10 per year. A postal subscription is £17.50. In case of difficulty contact the Treasurer, Mrs Geraldine Clotworthy.

To advertise in **Voice**, contact Roger Fowler{77711}.

### **Distributers please note**

Your magazines ready for distribution will be located at the back of the church.

If at any time you are unable to deliver **Voice**, please could you arrange for someone to deliver it for you or contact June Cox {74537} Magazines should be delivered before the 1st Sunday of the month if possible.

**If you wish to receive regular parish emails  
please email the office. [admin@stbartscrewkerne.org](mailto:admin@stbartscrewkerne.org)**

## DEFIBRILLATOR

There is now a defibrillator (orange in a clear plastic cover) in the Church which is located in the first cupboard underneath the servery near the North Door. There are signs up in the Church, in the South Door porch and in the Church Hall with details and contact information. Please speak to the church warden, Pippa Smith for more information.

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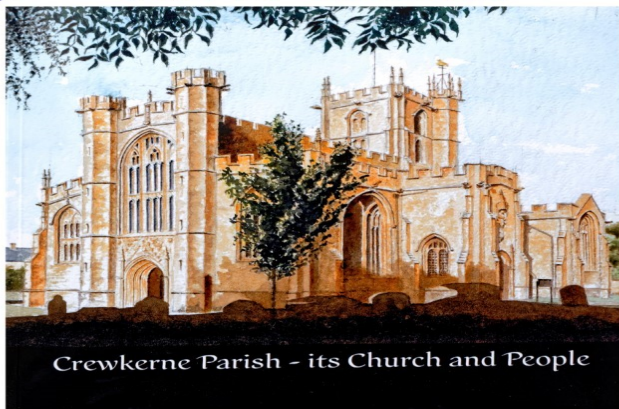
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## NEW BOOK



Crewkerne Parish - its Church and People

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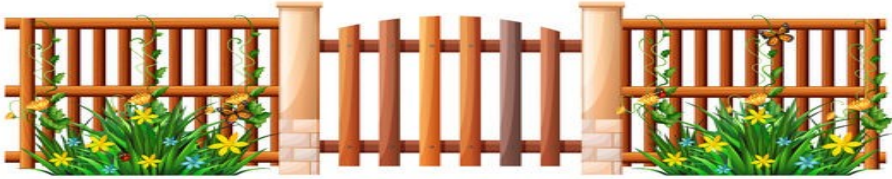
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### RECTOR

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