

# Burpham & Wepham News



**A Happy Christmas to One and All!**

*The Monthly Newsletter of the village of Burpham & Wepham*

Your Village Website:

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[fbcburpham.org.uk](mailto:fbcburpham.org.uk)

*From the Vicarage, December 2018*

**Dear Friends,**

"Christmas is coming", the geese are getting fat! Please put a penny in the old man's hat. If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do, if you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you!

An old nursery rhyme with an age-old moral behind it. While we prepare to eat and drink and make merry with our friends and families, we should also spare a thought for those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Contrary to the images of jollity and happy family gatherings, for many Christmas is stressful for a variety of reasons. While some have diaries which are full to bursting with events and activities, others find the Christmas season particularly difficult. Some will spend it alone, others will experience the pain of their first Christmas without a loved one, or after a sad or painful life event, and yet more will struggle to pay bills in an attempt to keep up with the now materialistic approach to this festival.

In an increasingly secular age, many will ask what Christmas is really all about. For Christians these festivities mark the birth of Jesus Christ, who, we believe to be the essence of God in human form. God, in Jesus Christ, becomes one of us. He feels pain and sadness. He walks with us in and through our brokenness. He shares our joy. There is no 'fake news' here, only Good News. Emmanuel –God with us.

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,*



*lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (Luke 2: 10 – 14)*



This Christmas in our churches in Burpham and Poling, we will hear the Christmas story in our special services which are listed in our newsletters this month. Whether life is joyful or sorrowful for you this Christmas, come and find out for yourselves what it is that drew people to Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago, and still draws them to Him today.



With all good wishes for a blessed and holy Christmas from all at St Mary's

With love and blessings.

*Celia*

**Priest in charge; St Mary the Virgin, Burpham & St Nicholas, Poling.**  
**Rev. Celia Woodruff: [celia.woodruff1@gmail.com](mailto:celia.woodruff1@gmail.com) Tel. 07807 899119**

**Village Christmas Fayre: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 11.00am - 2.30pm at St Mary's.** This is a team effort by the Village Committee and the PCC. There will be a small number of gift stalls and village stalls:

- Village produce stall - all donations of Christmas food goodies welcome for the produce stall
- Marmalade stall
- Christmas Tombola - bottles and other items, also welcome for this stall
- Burpham & Wepham calendars and cards (for those who have not already purchased them)
- Children's Lucky Dip
- Christmas gift making table for children and parents to enjoy
- We will be serving a ploughman's lunch, mulled wine, alongside teas and coffees from 12 noon to 2.30pm.

All proceeds will be shared between the village playground fund and the fabric fund managed by the PCC. This is a new event, and we are open to ideas. Any donations for the Christmas tombola / bottle stall gratefully received. These can be delivered to either Heather Birch or Rev. Celia or taken to church on the morning of the Fayre. Church open from 8.30am  
If you, or anyone you know would like a stall, please contact: **Heather** on 01903 882839 [heatherwbirch@btinternet.com](mailto:heatherwbirch@btinternet.com) or **Celia** 07807 899119 / [celia.woodruff1@gmail.com](mailto:celia.woodruff1@gmail.com)

*\*For stalls - we will only be asking for a small contribution from the stallholders as this is a new experimental event*

**Church Christmas Decoration: 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.30am:** Please come along and help us decorate the church for Christmas. Flowers and refreshments will be provided, but please bring along greenery and scateurs. No skill required, just enthusiasm! **Gill**



**At The George: Special Christmas Menu available throughout the month**

- **Christmas Tree Lighting, 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 5.00pm.** Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, Guess the number of lights competition - all invited!
- **Special Dinner before attending a 10.00pm Service in our Church, 24<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Eve.** Complimentary drink for those attending the service!
- **Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. Closed**
- **Sompting Morris Dancers, Boxing Day 26<sup>th</sup> December 1.00pm** soup, chicken curry and guest ales available outside. Bedlam - not to be missed!
- **New Year's Eve Party 31 Dec** (see enclosed flyer)

**Poppy Day Collections 2018:** Burpham and Wepham together raised a total of £650 for the support of Servicemen and their dependents who have suffered as a result of combat. **The Royal British Legion** thanks everyone from our villages who again donated so generously to the Poppy appeal.



**2019 is almost upon us - Save the dates!**

- **George Writers Group Evening, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January** in the Village Hall. Details in January Newsletter. All Welcome. **Simon, Jan & Bob,**
- **English Shuffleboard Evening, Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February.** Details in the January newsletter. **Happy Christmas from Heather**
- **Illustrated Talk, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall: Burpham and the Arun Valley Postcard Trail.** Local historian Tony Pratt will use old postcards and modern video to explore Burpham and nearby villages. Free entry, charitable donations encouraged. Details in the January Newsletter. **Trevor Cooper**

**Village Walk Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January:** Start Village Hall, 10.00am. Everyone welcome, including well-behaved dogs. Back by 1.00pm latest. Feel free just to turn up, but if possible so that we know rough numbers please contact Trevor Cooper on [tc@trevorcooper.net](mailto:tc@trevorcooper.net) 01903 885349

**Dog Walking:** Maria Dennis is offering professional dog walking services in the village and surrounding area. If you are interested, please contact her through her website [www.arundelcogwalker.dog](http://www.arundelcogwalker.dog)

## Forthcoming Events

Sat 1 Dec	5.00pm	<b>Christmas Tree Lighting at the Pub</b>	The George
	7.00pm	<b>Race Night</b>	Village Hall
Sun 2 Dec	10.30am	<b>Family Service with Advent Carols, followed by Coffee &amp; Produce</b>	St Mary's
Tue 4 Dec	7.30pm	<b>Village Committee Meeting</b>	Village Hall
Sat 8 Dec	11.00am	<b>Christmas Fayre</b>	St Mary's
Sun 9 Dec	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Spoken Holy Communion</b>	St Mary's
Sun 16 Dec	10.30am	<b>Family Service</b>	St Mary's
Thu 20 Dec	6.00pm	<b>Carols around the Village</b>	
Sat 22 Dec	10.30am	<b>Decorate Church for Christmas</b>	St Mary's
Sun 23 Dec	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Spoken Holy Communion</b>	St Mary's
	6.00pm	<b>9 Carols &amp; Lessons by Candlelight</b>	St Mary's
	7.00pm	<b>Mince Pies &amp; Mulled Wine</b>	Village Hall
Mon 24 Dec	2.30pm	<b>Children's Crib Service &amp; Tea</b>	St Mary's
Christmas Eve	10.00pm	<b>Christmas by Candlelight Eucharist</b>	St Mary's
Tue 25 Dec	10.30am	<b>Christmas Family Service</b>	St Mary's
Sun 30 Dec	10.30am	<b>Family Service</b>	St Mary's

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



Please send your articles for the January 2019 Newsletter to Bob Baynes at Court Leet Cottage, or preferably by e mail to [baynes755@btinternet.com](mailto:baynes755@btinternet.com) by the last week of December 2018. All your articles of interest to the Village are welcome. With very many thanks, Bob Baynes