



inSPIRE

# DERRY HILL AND STUDLEY MATTERS

January  
2017



The Parish Magazine of  
Christ Church Derry Hill



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## EDITORIAL POLICY

Any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writers and are not necessarily the policy of this publication or its editor. **All articles submitted for publication are subject to editing.** Deadline for inclusion of material in **next** month's magazine is the **10th** of **this** month.

## ADVERTISING RATES

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## EDITORIAL

We've arrived in a brand-new year and Brexit and Donald Trump are still very much with us. It is usual to make wishes for the year to come, apart from good health and happiness. I do hope we have a non-confrontational year and all the awful conflicts around the world cease.



In celebration of last year, well done to Calne in managing to stage the World's largest nativity scene, what an excellent occasion that was, which helped kick off the festive season. On the national stage well done to our Olympians, a fantastic medal count, which brought so much joy to us as we watched their thrilling achievements.

Let's hope that **2017** will be a year to be proud of.

*Ed*

## MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS TO DERRY HILL

**Lansdowne Hall Derry Hill, 14.30 – 16.00**

Tuesdays: **10 January and 7 February 2017**

**Kingston House Derry Hill, 9.40 – 10.25**

Mondays: **23 January and 20 February 2017**



## THISBE

**Door Ajar Theatre Company**

**Friday 3rd March 2017 in Bremhill Village Hall**

This is going to be a mixture of drama, comedy and live music. You will know of **Puck** the prankster in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. Well, he features, meddling with the mortals' world. **Thisbe** is the daughter of **Helena** and **Demetrius**, and this drama is set **14** years after they were lost in the woods. Do not worry if you are not familiar with Shakespeare's story. Come and enjoy the music (all original) and comedy. There are six actor-musicians who will be performing.

Doors open **7pm** for the performance at **7.30pm**.

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Contact Marilyn or Rosie **01249 661369** or **813642**. *Marilyn*

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# WILLIAM OF NEWBURGH

## at Stanley Abbey

Medieval monastic abbeys were places of learning, science and medicine and our own was no exception. William of Newburgh (1136?–1198?) was an English historian and Augustinian canon of Anglo-Saxon descent from Bridlington Yorkshire and worked here at Stanley Abbey for a time. His major work was **Historia rerum Anglicarum** (written at the request of Ernald abbot of Rievaulx) or "**History of English Affairs**" from 1066 to 1198 was written in 1196-1198. Historians value the work for detailing 'The Anarchy' (civil war) under King Stephen (nephew of King Henry I) in his war against the Empress Maud (daughter of King Henry I) who founded Stanley Abbey. It is written in an engaging fashion and still readable to this day, containing many fascinating stories and glimpses into 12th-century life. He is the only source for the bishop-pirate Wilmund. The 19th-century historian Edward Augustus Freeman expressed the now outdated opinion that William was "**the father of historical criticism**." Indeed, he was very critical of King John, who he describes as "**nature's enemy**", and in general his discussion of English kings is "**loyal but critical and cool**".



Newburgh saw his own work as being based on reliable sources, unlike Geoffrey of Monmouth's **Historia Regum Britanniae**, of which Newburgh was critical, saying "**only a person ignorant of ancient history would have any doubt about how shamelessly and impudently he lies in almost everything**." He criticised Geoffrey for writing a history that conflicted with the accounts found in the writing of Bede. He is a major source for vampire stories and stories of souls returning from the dead: a widely-held belief in those days. Although they form a minor part in his works these folklore accounts have attracted attention within occultism. He also described the arrival of green children from "**St. Martin's Land**" and other mysterious, wondrous occurrences. While he says that these have an apparent signification, he does not explain what that meaning might be: "**he offers these prodigious events to his readers with questions, hesitations, and doubt – with, in short, all the confessions of a critical and honest mind**".

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He also composed a lengthy Marian exposition on the Song of Songs and three sermons on liturgical texts and Saint Alban. This is the continuation of William's chronicle, made at Stanley Abbey and later copied at Furness abbey. It contains extracts from the **1215** Charter's preface, and chapters on the church, on the removing from office of the kinsmen of Gerard d'Athée, and on the expelling of foreign soldiers from the country.

In an age of illiteracy, he had little choice but to rely on oral sources and legend for material. But modern scholarship has proven many times that the oral and mythological tradition is a well-spring of fact not fiction.

©Stephen Ben Cox

## **HAND BELL RINGING**

**Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm – 9pm** we meet to practice our hand bell ringing but we will be stopping for a while after our last public outing of the year on 18<sup>th</sup> December, until 11<sup>th</sup> January when we will begin our weekly practices again. Do join us then and give it a try - no experience needed! There is a small charge of **£2** per week per person to cover costs. We hope to see you in January!!! For more details, please contact **David Bedford** on **07977143822**

## **MEDITATION – ALL ARE WELCOME**

We meet **every Wednesday** at **6.30pm** until **7.00pm**, just a very short time. We arrive quietly, there is a short reading and then we meditate for **20** minutes. We leave in silence, so there is no need to feel you must join in social chit chat, though we can greet one another!

Meditation is very simple and open to all. There are no “experts” in meditation. Some people come on a regular basis and some come occasionally. Everybody is welcome.

We will continue to meet weekly through the winter and we are so pleased to be meeting in the church where there will be heating. However, we would like to make a small donation towards the cost of the heating, so we would suggest **50p** to **£1** as a guide, but this would be up to each person.

Do come along and feel the benefit of a quiet still place amidst the business of life. *Janet Robbins* - **01249 814845**

# Amanda's Pilates



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Thursday Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill  
9.00am Improver level,  
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# CALNE WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

## (Derry Hill and Studley are in this Parish)

The Parish Council met on Monday 5th December.

As the Public Consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan had just started, some councillors hadn't had time to read the document. It was therefore decided to look at the document in a meeting in January and put forward a response.

The council agreed to go ahead with three new litterbins; one each end of Church Road and one by the entrance to the Lansdowne Hall. All of them must be paid for out of the Parish Precept as well as the ongoing charge of servicing them. The present ones, serviced by Wiltshire Council will be left in place.

There was quite a lot of discussion about the insurance of the existing Telephone box in Church Road (owned by the Parish Council and now used to store a defibrillator) and who should pay for the insurance of the defibrillator. The clerk was asked to investigate costs further. Stockley and Lower Compton, both in Calne Without Parish, are looking to have a similar telephone box/defibrillator set up.

There was no further news on the Derry Hill play area.

These are my own jottings to help keep you up to date.

The next meeting is on **January 9th 7.30pm** in the **Lansdowne Hall**.

The website [www.calnewwithoutpc.org](http://www.calnewwithoutpc.org) contains the official minutes, once passed, and other information.

*Richard Ayles*, Parish Councillor.

## NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS

### The Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Hard copies of the plan can be seen at Christ Church, the Lansdowne Hall and the Village Stores. It can also be viewed by accessing the Calne Without Parish Council website: [www.calnewwithoutpc.org](http://www.calnewwithoutpc.org).



Comments on the Draft Plan must be submitted before **5pm Wednesday 11th January 2017**. Further details are in the document and on the website. This is your chance to read what the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group believe our community wants from the surveys and consultation carried out.



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## STUDLEY VILLAGERS

The Studley Villagers held their third annual Christmas Coffee Morning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Despite the frosty start to the day, over forty Villagers braved the cold for a hot drink and a mince pie or two. The Methodist Hall was beautifully decorated and we contributed to this by decorating the Heart tree, with the twin themes of Christmas and the defibrillator, it was covered with an array of red and gold hearts.

There was also the opportunity to purchase some extra stocking fillers from a bring-and-buy table and the brilliantly creative Christina Clifford and the team from the Methodist Hall created magnificent seasonal floral displays to raise funds for the defibrillator. In all nearly **£100** was raised.

Several younger members of our community were welcomed this time. They were kept busy at Elise Baird's Christmas craft table, making hand crafted cards to send, which I know will be enjoyed by their friends and families.

We were all delighted to hear that much needed improvements to the hall are to take place in the New Year. I know that a lot of people have worked very hard to make this happen, so well done to them.

Many thanks to all who attended this event and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

*Angie*

## POPPY APPEAL 2016

This is just to advise residents that the total raised for this year's appeal was **£651.49**.

Many thanks for your generosity.

Again, I would thank my collectors that give of their time so freely and make it possible for the collection to be carried out.

*Cathy Liddle*





# YOGA

with Suzanne

## **NIGHT TIME CLASS**

*Tuesday 8-9.30pm* Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill

## **DAYTIME CLASSES**

*Tuesday & Thursday 10-11.30am* Bromham Social Centre, Bromham

*Friday 9.30-11.00am* Equilibrium Natural Health Centre, Pewsham

*Friday 1-2.30pm* Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill

**Suzanne Green** Email: [info@yogawithsuzanne.co.uk](mailto:info@yogawithsuzanne.co.uk)

07732545715 · Website: [www.yogawithsuzanne.co.uk](http://www.yogawithsuzanne.co.uk)

MIXED ABILITY · BEGINNERS WELCOME

## **The Lansdowne Luncheon Club**

We meet on alternate Wednesdays in the old meeting room at the Lansdowne Hall.

The club is open to those over 60yrs living in Derry Hill or Studley and we welcome anyone who will enjoy some social contact.

We provide a two-course hot meal, with a current charge of £3.50, which is usually paid in advance for 3 or 4 meals, to fit with our rental payments.

If you or a friend is interested in joining, please contact

Rachel Collins on 01249 817548, or Paula Edwards on 01249 816364.

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# A FREE NHS HEALTH CHECK



People aged **40** and over are eligible for a **free NHS health check** and are being given a simple message – please take up the offer.

The NHS Health Check programme, commissioned by Wiltshire Council and provided by local GP practices, helps to

check people’s risk of developing life threatening conditions including **heart disease, type 2 diabetes, kidney disease** and **dementia**, as well as reducing the risk of having a stroke.

Everyone between the ages of **40** and **74**, who has not already been diagnosed with one of these conditions or is otherwise ineligible, is invited every five years to have a free NHS Health Check. The check only takes **20** minutes and people will be asked some simple questions related to their lifestyles along with some simple tests including blood pressure as well as an instant blood test to check cholesterol levels. The results will be discussed and further advice and support provided and should they be required, additional tests and referral to your GP.

Jerry Wickham, Wiltshire Council cabinet member for public health, said: ***“It doesn’t matter if you feel fit and healthy; these checks are an important way of checking that everything is ok. Many of the diseases they are checking for are silent with no obvious symptoms. If we can help prevent and manage illnesses and conditions at an early stage then lives can be saved and health services will be under less pressure. “So my advice is, if you get a letter offering you an NHS Health Check, then please book one.”***

In many cases, these conditions and illnesses are preventable by keeping at a healthy weight, eating healthily and being physically active. A lifestyle including a healthy diet and regular physical activity is the key, and simple changes such as walking more and cutting down on sugar can help make a big difference. For more information people should visit <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/nhshealthcheck>.

# CHURCH CONTACTS

## CHRIST CHURCH - DERRY HILL [www.mardenvale.org.uk](http://www.mardenvale.org.uk)

<b>Vicar</b>	Reverend Ann Massey <a href="mailto:ea.massey@btinternet.com">ea.massey@btinternet.com</a>	<b>01249 817926</b>
<b>Administrator:</b>	Diane Saxty <a href="mailto:diane@mardenvale.org.uk">diane@mardenvale.org.uk</a>	<b>07846 244726</b>

### Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)

*Please call if you would like a visit or chat. All in strictest confidence.*

Averil Davis	<b>01249 814411</b>
Anita Uttley	<b>01380 859433</b>

### Church Wardens

Mr Stephen Starr	<b>01249 821325</b>
Vacancy	

### PCC Treasurer (Tr) & Secretary (Sec)

Mr Simon Strange (Tr)	<b>01249 813378</b>
Mrs Lucinda Prater (Sec)	<b>01249 823252</b>

*If you wish to discuss arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals or would like a pastoral visit or meeting arranged then please contact Reverend Ann Massey as above.*

## JANUARY 2017 IN CHRIST CHURCH

### 1 January 2017

**10:00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's Calne

### 8 January 2017

**11:00am** Holy Communion All Age (CW)

### 15 January 2017

**8:00am** Holy Communion (BCP)

**11:00am** Family Service

### 22 January 2017

**11:00am** Holy Communion (CW)

### 29 January 2017

**11:00am** Bremhill, Foxham and Derry Hill Holy Communion in Christ Church. The Feast of the Presentation of Christ - the Light of the World. More candles!!

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This seems a long way away now as it happened late November after the last magazine went to print.

We made over **£900** for Church funds – probably to be spent on the Church roof.

It was great to see so many people from our community there as well as visitors from outside.

There were Carols provided by Rita, Carol and Peter, and in their World Premiere, the Handbell Ringers based at Christ Church.

**23** stalls in all; there was a wide variety of gifts and other activities available. When it all got too much you could relax in the Festive Café and enjoy a mince pie and a cuppa cheerfully manned by Michael, Robyn and Jean.

Well done to everybody who took part in helping it run, thanks for your time and effort. The organising committee:

*Peter, Deirdre, Mary, Stephen, Jennie and Richard.*



## BURNS NIGHT SUPPER



On **January 27th 7pm** there is a **Burns Night Supper** in the church. Tickets **£10** each.

This is a three-course meal with Haggis, Neeps and Tatties for the main course.

There will be entertainment by Carol, Rita and Peter.

This promises to be a good evening so

book your tickets now. ....And wear your kilt!

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## THANK YOU TO MOTHERS' UNION!

On behalf of the villages, I would like to thank the Christ Church Derry Hill Mother's Union for making the wonderful figures of Mary and Joseph and the Donkey plus the Shepherds and their Sheep, the Three



Wise Men and, of course, the Baby Jesus. These beautiful figures contributed greatly to our Christmas Celebrations in Christ Church.

I would also like to thank the MU for making a wonderful Baptism Basket for the children to explore baptism when they come to church.

*Reverend Ann*

## MASK CONCERT

A jolly good time was had by all! Thank you everyone!





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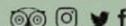
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## DEFIBRILLATOR NEWS



Happy New Year to everyone and I hope you had a healthy, happy Christmas.

The Christmas presents have now been unwrapped, the food eaten, the Christmas decorations are once again in the loft and the Christmas tree, minus its pine needles which are now firmly imbedded in the lounge carpet, is lying outside next to the bin. Just 11½ months to go until we do it all again! With 2017 stretching out before us, what might we expect in the New Year.

### Changes to activation radius for our defibrillators

I am sure you are all aware that if a family member, friend or stranger is taken seriously ill and you call for an ambulance, you may be directed by the ambulance service to get the defibrillator nearest to you. Until recently SWAST (South West Ambulance Service) considered the activation radius for a community defibrillator to be **500** metres and, as we have three defibrillators in Studley and Derry Hill (plus one at the football club), we had comprehensive coverage for our villages. In November last year SWAST reduced the activation radius down to **200** metres and, as a result of this, there may be areas around the villages that are no longer covered by the existing defibrillators.

The Government is making **£1 million** available for community defibrillators that are being distributed via the British Heart Foundation. This may be a solution to any “gaps” the new **200** metre radius has created around the village. We would welcome your comments and suggestions on possible new sites for defibrillators. The site should be available to the public at all times. If you do have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us, please see below for details.

### Gentle reminder

Should you ever be asked to collect a defibrillator, whether or not it is actually used, please let one of us know. Contact numbers are inside the cabinets. Of course we do not expect you to tell us immediately, but perhaps a day or two later once the emergency has passed. Once we have been made aware that a defibrillator has been called out we can carry out a site check to ensure everything is still working correctly and to see if anything needs replacing.

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*To Let.*

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*Mr Keith Treslove –*

**01249 819077**

*email: [inspirederry@gmail.com](mailto:inspirederry@gmail.com)*

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We do hope that you never need to use a defibrillator but should that event ever arise, we want to be confident that everything is working correctly and all the items in the “ready kit” are present.

## **Fundraising**

Once again we had a presence at the Christmas Fayre where Sarah, a DH&SH member, worked tirelessly to persuade the good folks of the village to buy our badges, pens and mugs. Well done Sarah and thank you to everyone who bought something or made a donation. Every little helps. Our next fundraising event will be at Easter. Watch this space.

Emma Dadd **01249 817438** [emma.dadd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emma.dadd@hotmail.co.uk)

Paula Edwards **01249 816364** [bryher3@taktalk.net](mailto:bryher3@taktalk.net)

## **CHRIST CHURCH EVENTS IN FEBRUARY**

### **5 February 2017**

**11:00am** Holy Communion (CW)

### **12 February 2017**

**11:00am** Holy Communion All Age (CW)

### **19 February 2017**

**8:00am** Holy Communion (BCP)

**11:00am** Family Service

### **26 February 2017**

**11:00am** Holy Communion (CW)

### **1 March 2017**

**7.30pm** Ash Wednesday – Imposition of Ashes

## **KINGSTON HOUSE**

If you were in Calne for the lights switch on December 3rd you might have seen our stall. We raised **£240** for the new mini bus!

We are planning a **Beetle Drive** on **17th January 6.30pm** – to be confirmed.

On **February 13th 6.30pm** we are going to have a **Valentine’s Bingo** night with Valentine themed prizes. Come along and have some fun, who knows, win a Valentine prize for the love in your life!

*Lynda* **01249 815555**



## Derry Tots

Derry Tots is your friendly local Under Fives Playgroup. We meet every Wednesday morning during term time at the Lansdowne Hall in Derry Hill.

We are having an open morning on 29th June, 9.30-11.30am with coffee & cake and a pre-loved toys and clothes sale.

Please come and visit us, all welcome!

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## DERRY HILL AND DISTRICT WI

At the November 23rd meeting Maureen Hinton talked to the ladies about a Traditional Victorian Christmas. She mentioned some of the floral associations with ancient Yule celebrations and showed us decorations and much-loved items from her own family history. From Christmas cards and crackers to the best way to decorate the dining table, she provided us with all the traditions of "Christmas Past". But Maureen is really a flower grower and arranger, and she was soon demonstrating how to make nosegays and swags, arrangements for the house and wreaths for the door. As always, we came away with a lot of useful tips on how to make flowers and foliage last as long as possible.



The stall at the Lansdowne Hall Christmas Fayre was judged to have been a financial success with most of the items made by members being sold.



An enjoyable Christmas Dinner was held at "The Westbrook Inn" on December 7th attended by most of the members.

The **next meeting** will be on **Wednesday 25th January 2017** at **7.30pm** in the Hall when Karen Johnson will talk about "Venetian

Masks" and the competition will be a "Holiday Souvenir".

If you are interested in coming to a meeting please phone Sheila on **814538**, or Janet, on **814152** or just pop in - we'd love to see you.

*Terry*

## BOOK REVIEW

We met on 8th of December to decide on our '**Book of the Year**'. The clear winner was '**All the light we cannot see**' by Anthony Doerr. The January book is '**The Shepherd's Life**' by James Rebank, chosen by Christine Ackford. This will be reviewed next month.

If anyone would like to borrow a copy of this book, or any others we have read, please contact Dani on **01249 816106**.

*Christine*



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## GARDENING STEVE



A Happy New Gardening Year to all you gardeners. January is a month when you can start planning your garden for the coming year.

Going through seed catalogues can be a pleasant job; sometimes you are spoilt for choice over what to pick - so many types of each variety to pick from. During

frosty mornings don't walk or work on grass when it is frozen or frosted otherwise later when it thaws out your footprints will show up as yellow patches where the grass has been damaged.

Wisterias can now be pruned, shorten the long side shoots to **2** or **3** buds from the main stem. You can also cut out any unwanted long shoots that have been left over from the summer. When pruning always have a really sharp pair of secateurs to make a clean cut rather than bruise the stem. When tying any branches always use tar coated string, this lasts much longer than normal string. You can buy tar-coated string from Roses hardware store, Devizes. Start now to force rhubarb doing this will encourage growth of tender young stems in the spring. More news next month.

*Stephen Starr* Bowood Gardener.

## TOWN HALL MOVIOLA

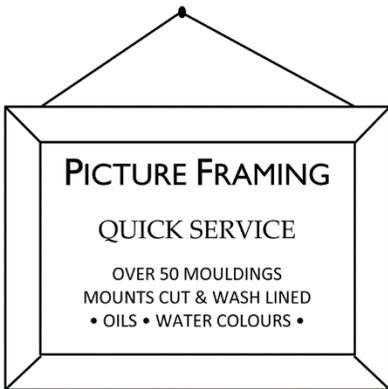
There will be a 6 week break over the holidays but we will be showing our films again in January. This will be **'Learning to Drive'** (15) starring Ben Kingsley and Patricia Clarkson.

She has a successful writing career but suffers a sense of loss when her husband leaves her for a younger woman.

He is a Sikh driving instructor about to engage in an arranged marriage to a much younger girl. Both are looking for a different meaning to their life and so he teaches her to drive and they find that they work well together.

Showing in **Calne Town Hall** on **Weds Jan 18th** at **7.30pm**. Doors open at **7.00**. Refreshments available. Tickets **£6.00** available from the information centre or on the door.

*viv*



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## **FLOODLIGHTING THE SPIRE**

This is a lovely thing to do to remember loved ones and to celebrate special anniversaries and birthdays. The Spire is currently lit between 7pm and midnight, though this varies with the time of year.

Floodlighting the Spire can be arranged through Dave Massey Tel. **01249 817926** or [jd.massey@btinternet.com](mailto:jd.massey@btinternet.com). A donation to the church for the cost of the lighting is welcome.

## **ALTAR GUILD**

*Flowers in Church:* The Flower Guild are inviting flower sponsorship for the single pedestal in Christ Church, Derry Hill each week. If you would like to do this or sponsor part of a pedestal, in memory of a special occasion then, to find out more contact Claire Satchell, on **07968 091217** or email [newleaf floristry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:newleaf floristry@hotmail.co.uk)

# STUDLEY METHODIST CHURCH

## Services for January 2017

<b>8 Jan</b>	10:30am	at Central
<b>15 Jan</b>	10:30am	Mr Peter you Uglow
<b>22 Jan</b>	10:30am	Mr Eric Hewitt
<b>29 Jan</b>	10:30am	at Lyneham

## Update on Reverend David Gray

We are pleased to say that David is now home from hospital and making good progress back to good health.

## Prayer, poetry and prose fellowship

Throughout the year, we have enjoyed our monthly get-togethers (Monday pm) which have been varied with poetry, readings, singing, light-hearted quizzes and mini craft demonstrations, all rounded off with tea and home-made cake. If you would like to join us please see the outside noticeboard or ring Linda on (01249) 817194. We are very pleased to be able to make a donation of **£50** to **CAP** (Christians against poverty). We are planning to go out for lunch at the Pheasant in the coming weeks.

## Nativity Scenes/Christmas trees

We would like to thank everyone who has kindly donated nativity scenes and Christmas trees for display at the chapel over the Christmas season. They have all contributed to making a wonderful atmosphere in the lead up to Christmas.

## Renovations

Renovations are due to commence at the chapel early **2017** to update the kitchen and toilet facilities. We feel that it is necessary for this work to be carried out as the church hall is the only building in Studley that can be used as a Community Centre for use by Studley folk. We will need to hold some fundraising events to help with the costs so, Studley villagers, your ideas for funding raising activities will be very welcome.

This is your chance to make the church hall into the hub of our community. Watch this space and the church noticeboard for updates.

*Christine*





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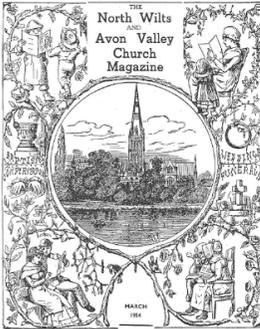
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## ARTICLE FROM THE PAST



*Letter from Calne, January 1955...*

My dear friends,

This letter is for me a meditation at the end of the year. When you read it in two weeks' time it will be for you, I hope, a message for 1955.

The numbers of those watching television for Big Brother's 2<sup>nd</sup> appearance<sup>1</sup> were said to have been greater than at any time since the Coronation. I looked in on both occasions.

As you know, since the Coronation because of my visit to Abyssinia in 1934 I had the great privilege of meeting at a dinner at Lambeth some of those who played such a large part in that first great television occasion – the Archbishop of Canterbury and his Chaplain, the Dean of Westminster and the Bishop of Bath and Wells. I hope I shall never have to write to you in these columns to say I have had the unprivilege of meeting Big Brother. Those who complained so loudly about him would have been wiser if they had confined their hostility to the fact that he appeared first on a Sunday night.

Most of them forgot that the only thing which keeps Big Brother at bay is Christianity. Take away the little Child of Bethlehem and you get Big Brother in His place. 1984 was good Christian propaganda in reverse. Hell is one of the four last things which the church is ordered to contemplate in Advent.

You and I, as I write, live at the end of 1954 and have been made to look towards 1984. What happens between now and then depends upon the practising Christians (the other sort is unimportant).

It is the duty of the Christians to try to do all in their power to convince all those who by their present sneers at faith, and indifference to the Child of Bethlehem that they are working without realising it for Big Brother in England with both hands.

Yours sincerely,  
Douglas O'Hanlon.

---

<sup>1</sup> A British television adaptation of George Orwell's 1984 was broadcast in December 1954. Questions were asked in Parliament and many viewers complained over its supposed subversive nature and horrific content.

## REVEREND ANN WRITES

Dear All

Happy New Year!

I have just read the '**Article from the Past**' and became rather confused when I started reading references to 'Big Brother' in the **1955** January issue of the area churches magazine from which it was taken ...

I had to pinch myself to realise that in **1955** '**Big Brother**' meant something very different – it was a reference in George Orwell's book **1984** to 'government' spying on its subjects – an abuse of its powers!! If you just google '**Big Brother**' now rather than '**1984**' the results are all about the celebrities in a well-known reality show! How life has changed!!

Not only do we find new words in our vocabulary but a lot of the old ones have lost their innocence or their meaning has changed irrevocably. Life changes, and it does not always progress positively!!

However, a new year is upon us and the opportunity arrives for new year resolutions again. With our changing world, perhaps it is a time to sit back and look at it with fresh eyes and a fresh mind – allow the light of Christ to shine in our darkness and enlighten our thinking.

There is a saying '***From little acorns mighty oak-trees grow***'. That will never change! So, as we begin a new year perhaps we could all resolve to sow seeds of love and peace wherever we go. Part of this would be not to turn a blind eye to injustices but determine to bring justice through love for all. Bring peace between friends, within families; bring peace through small acts of kindness; ARK (A Random act of Kindness) links us to Noah's ark which provided shelter for so many at the time of flooding.

It is through kindness and, belief that everyone has love in their hearts even when they cannot communicate it because other things get in the way, that peace is brought.

So, for **2017**, bring peace through kindness to those around you. Don't underestimate how this can transform the world. From little acorns, great oak-trees grow – but this is only with the right development conditions! Justice and understanding is a part of this.

*With love Ann*

# NEW BEGINNINGS

1

This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember, and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.

3

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past, and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

2

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference  
as faith and hope are born again.

4

Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.

*Brian Wren Copyright © 1983, 1987 by Hope Publishing Company for the USA, Australia and New Zealand, and by Stainer and Bell for all other territories. All rights reserved.*

# MOTHER'S UNION



In December Derry Hill Mothers Union enjoyed a Festive Christmas Tea at the Bowood Spa Hotel. Members spent a happy time in lovely surroundings eating a delicious meal of sandwiches, scones and cake washed down with endless cups of tea. Many thanks to Robyn for organising yet another lovely outing.

The **January meeting** will be on the second **Wednesday** that is **11<sup>th</sup> January** and it is the **AGM**. The next New Start coffee morning is in church on the first Friday of the term. New members and visitors are always welcome at our meetings. Information from Deirdre **01249 822157**.

*Nan*



Presents...

# Robinson Crusoe

by Steve Shaw



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Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2pm & 7pm

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