

Spire Hill Church and Community Magazine

Purse Caundle, Stalbridge, Stock Gaylard
Stourton Caundle

DECEMBER 2019



A monthly magazine published by your local churches.

Church Contacts in the Benefice of Spire Hill

If you have a query about baptisms, weddings or related subjects please contact the Rural Dean

Rev Lydia Cook Tel. 01258 863774
rector@okefordbenefice.org

If you have a funeral query please contact the Licensed Lay Minister

Mrs Judy Waite Tel. 01963 362945
Wynhill, Gold Street, Stalbridge, DT10 2LX
judy.waite@btinternet.com

Churchwardens

Purse Caundle	Mrs Anne-Marie Slack.....	01963 250272
	Mrs Ethne Waltham	01963 250238
Stalbridge	Mr John Foster-Pegg.....	01963 362788
	Mr Derek Bollen	01963 362771
Stock Gaylard & Kings Stag	Mrs Janet Minikin.....	01258 817180
	Mr Mike Williams.....	01258 817616
Stourton Caundle	Mr David Jeanes.....	01963 365828
	Mrs Vinny Taylor.....	01963 362692
<i>Lay Pastoral Assistant</i>	Mrs Alison Nolder.....	01963 362392

Members of the Ministry Team (Alison and Judy) are all available to visit. Please telephone Judy or Alison to arrange a time for them to visit you at home, or if you would prefer, to meet somewhere else. If you would like a home communion visit please contact Alison.

Copy for January's Church and Community News
To the Editor Stuart Waite, Wynhill, Gold Street, Stalbridge DT10 2LX
by 12 noon on the third Sunday, 15th December 2019
Published at the end of the month
stuart.waite@outlook.com

LAY MINISTER'S MUSINGS

I'm writing this on 21st November on a dull grey afternoon. The white screen seems to stretch endlessly in front of me, so here goes with thoughts as we get closer to Christmas!

This morning I heard a well-known morning show person interviewing a lady on the telephone about Christmas decorations and the right time to put them up. It seems the lady had already put up her decs (as the kids say). The TV diva was shocked and said "Isn't it going to be difficult to keep up all this good cheer until Christmas"!

Now it was my turn to be shocked and it started me thinking. What is good cheer and what is wrong with her question to the telephone caller?

It seems at the moment there isn't much good cheer to be found if you read the news or watch TV. However if we widen our sights a bit there is a lot to feel cheerful about. We live in a beautiful part of the world; we live in a wonderful community, busy, full of variety and with people who are always happy to help you if you are in trouble.

There are many in Stalbridge who work tirelessly for charities to make life better for those less fortunate both here and in the world at large. All these people work all year round for their charities not just during this so-called "season of good cheer".

Good cheer, of course will mean different things to each of us; and there is always someone who can't see anything good in a situation. That is a shame but they often have very good reasons to feel the way they do – life can give you lots of lemons to suck sometimes!

On a positive note it's good to remember that by spreading goodness around it makes us feel good too. Even a smile or a kind word at the right time has a value you may never realise to the person who receives it. There is no money involved in a smile or kind word but if that's what you would like to do maybe think of a donation into the food bank basket at Dike's. Both these ways of spreading good need to be done regularly because the season of good cheer lasts from when you read this until.....

Jesus said "Love your neighbour" but it wasn't just during the season of good cheer. May we all spread love and kindness as far as possible and for as long as possible and certainly way into the future no matter how hard it may be!

Wishing everyone a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

JLW.

LOCAL EVENTS

At the Hall

8th December

Moscow Drug Club Food, Entertainment, Cabaret

The Moscow Drug Club – present elements of Berlin Cabaret, Hot Club de France, Nuevo Tango and Gypsy campfire. Combining songs by the likes of Jaques Brel, Leonard Cohen, Tom Waites and Eartha Kitt. Enjoy Cocktails and Cabaret.

In the Church

Thursday 19th December @ 7.30pm
HMS Heron Volunteer Band



Plus the Stalbridge Singers
& Guests

The fifth annual Christmas Concert

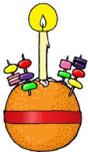


Sunday 22nd December @
6.30pm
Carol Service

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December @
4.00pm

Christingle & Crib Service



Come dressed as your favourite Christmas character
Refreshments are being served

STALBRIDGE GARDEN SOCIETY

November Meeting

Everyone was welcomed to the monthly meeting by Tony Moore, our chairman; notices were read out. He then introduced this evening's speaker Christine Stone whose talk was entitled "Gardens of WWI".



Christine began with the Tyne cot cemetery in France, she said that when the men were digging the flower borders in front of each grave hand fulls of bullets and bits of shell, to this day still surface each time they dig.

Before the First World War, gardeners and garden had a love of bedding plants one year the Rothschild estate ordered around 43,000 bedding plants, of course there would have been a large team of gardeners to put these in.

Then in 1913 places such as Nyman's, West Dean, and many more large estates started to plant vegetable crops, as there was a push to have at least five different fresh vegetables per day.

Of course then with the start of war many young gardeners joined up, and it was now the women who had to take on this role, along with many others such as harrowing, working the land, Forestry, as the wood was needed for use on the front line for "Trench Props".

Large country houses opened their door to injured service personnel, held tea parties in the garden to help with recuperation. The Stourhead estate being one of these, and sadly Lady Hoare lost her only son in this war.

Back in 1902 the Glynde School of Gardening was formed teaching ladies all aspects of horticulture, it proved very popular. During the war soldiers whilst awaiting their post, would help out on farms and in gardens, one young soldier Herbert Cowley wrote a book called "Vegetable Growing in Wartime", I expect that copies are still used today.

Another thing Christine told us was that Yeovil was the main centre for growing flax which was used to make cloth for the soldiers uniforms, along with Sphagnum moss which was gathered then packed up and sent to field hospitals and medical centres, this was good for mopping up wounds. The German uniforms however were found to contain around 85% nettles, and willow was used to make nearly all of the shell cases.

As early as 1915 the people were showed how to grow their own crops, even

the long border at Hestercombe was dug up and potatoes were put in.

Christine explained that the plant growers and rose nursery's, started to advertise encouraging people to plant some flowers and plants like roses so that they could keep their businesses going and that the men would have jobs to come back to.

Finally we saw pictures of the trenches being planted with flowers and crops, the soldiers would ask to have bulbs and seed to be sent, this gave the men something to do, as well as providing much needed food, Captain Lionel Crouch, sectioned off 150 miles of trenches so that his men could garden. We saw pictures of celery and leeks growing in the trenches, flower beds behind the trenches. I had never heard of this before.

Ruhleben concentration camp, wrote to the RHS and asked for seed, which the Red Cross distributed to them, so that they could be self-sufficient and grow crops. Even the Palace of Versailles grew 20, 0000 leek seedlings to be sent to the trenches.

Christine ended with saying lots of soldiers returned to gardening after the war, and it provided new jobs for those who had been injured, and lost limbs.

Today gardening is still very good for the soul! This was a brilliant talk by Christine, we all very much enjoyed it. She was a wonderful speaker.

Our next meeting is on Friday 6th December, a change to the programme due to the general election! It is a bring and share evening with a gardening quiz, as usual the venue is The Hall at 7.30pm

Our gardens have had more than enough rain, and be sure to take in anything that needs overwintering, some plants will withstand the cold, but not the wet and cold.

Hopefully the sprouts in the garden will last for Christmas, and think about keeping a few pots of herbs on a windowsill, these then can be used in stuffing for the turkey!

Michelle Howard





Stalbridge Congregational Church
Affiliated to the Congregational Federation

December 2019

Sunday Morning Worship: 10. 00 am

worship is a mixture of traditional and modern

1st Sunday (1st December) Breakfast Church

meets at 10 am for breakfast followed by informal all age worship
Dressing the Christmas Tree

Sunday 22nd Carol Service – 10 am

Coffee Mornings - Wednesdays from 10 until 11. 30am
Coffee, Tea and chat

Wednesdays 10 am – 12 noon THE FOOD BANK

is open for donations and collections.

Food Parcels can be collected from the Church by arrangement

For more information about how or what to give or if you need our help
please contact Diana 07907202473 or Angela Goss 07510575565

The church is open for quiet thoughts or to speak to someone

Little Wrigglers Wednesdays 10 am – 11.30 am

Parents' and baby group – all welcome

Facebook Family Groups at the Congregational Hall Stalbridge

Rhythm, Rhyme & Story Time - Thursdays 9.30- 10.30

Parents, carers and their children – all welcome

All Welcome

Messy Advent (Church)– November 20th 3.30 – 5.30 pm

Messy Church for parents and children-crafts worship and food

Messy Christmas December 18th 3.30 – 5.30 pm

Christmas Tree Festival Saturday 7th December 10 – 12 noon

Includes Children's Presentation, Stalbridge Singers and crafts.

For Groups Decorating Christmas Trees - The Church will be open on
Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th December from 9.30 am

Wednesday 11th December Film Night 7pm

Danger in the Manger – starring David Tenant

For more information contact Sandra on 01202 822133,
email sturner158@btinternet.com

www.stalbridgecongregationalchurch.weebly.com

and or for Hall hire Pam Tredger on 01963 363106

The Community Information Office @The Hub

The Community Information Office is located in the Stalbridge Hub building adjacent to the Library. It will be open on Fridays from 2-4pm for tea and a chat on 6th, 13th and 20th December. There will be no tea parties over the Christmas and New Year period with the next cup filling event taking place on Fri 10th Jan.



The Methodist Church



The Methodist Chapel in Kings Stag warmly invite you to join them for two services in December.

These are on 8th and 29th, both starting at 6.00pm. There is to be a Carol Service at 4.00pm on 21st December complete with mince pies to settle the Christmas Spirit. Let us not forget the Coffee Morning. This will be held on the 17th starting at 10.00am and continues until 11.30am. The fundraising this time is for Julia Hospice as well as a chance to use a cappuccino to chat, commune and get the latest gossip.



25th December: The story of mince pies

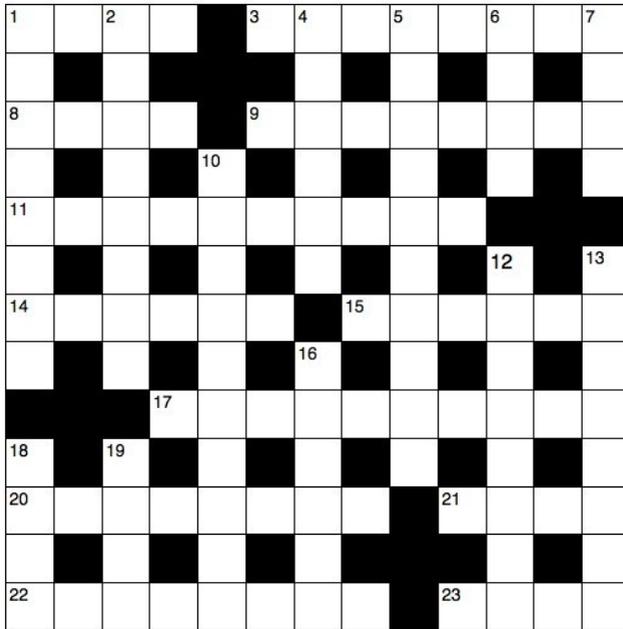
Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.



Stronger

Statistics show that we're getting stronger. 50 years ago, you needed an estate car to hold £100 worth of Christmas presents. 30 years ago, it took two people to carry £40 worth of groceries. Now a five-year-old can do it.

A Crossword for December



Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)

- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

25th December: Mistletoe's smelly history

Did you know that the word 'mistletoe' means dung on a tree? The Anglo-Saxons thought that mistletoe grew in trees where birds had left their droppings. Mistel means dung, and tan means twig.

Forward Notice

Dear All,

As you know for the last couple of years the Deanery has invited speakers to talk on a wide variety of thought provoking issues. The next talk is to be held in the Sturminster Exchange on 20th January 2020 at 2.00pm and is to be given by Brother Sam SSF, the talk is entitled **'Fragile people in a fragile world-how can we care for each other and the planet better'**.

Brother Sam (lately of Hilfield Friary) is an excellent speaker and I am sure it will be an interesting event. Tickets are the usual £5.00 to cover the cost of hiring the Exchange. The talk will start a little earlier than usual to allow those who do the school run to be able hear his talk if not able to take part in the Q and A session.

Tickets will be available from the Churchwardens or Judy and Stuart Waite and will be available to purchase after Christmas.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

After many years serving as our representatives for the Society Alan and Margaret Pebbles are retiring from this position. Can I take this opportunity to publicly say thank you to them both for all the dedicated, quiet hard work they have done for the society and the church over the years they have been our representatives. Claire Parson and Sarah Pitman have kindly agreed to take over this position.

Some of you will have the societies collection boxes at home and a gentler reminder that December is the month to return them, either to the church or to Claire on 01963 363308 or Sarah at sarahparsons_22@hotmail.co.uk, who will arrange for a new box to be ready for you for next year. If you do not have a collection box and would like to support this charity, again contact Sarah or Claire on the above details and they will be more than happy to give you a box for the year.

These boxes are an excellent way of tidying up your loose change at the end of the day and to enable excellent work in supporting vulnerable children nationwide at the same time. Thank you for helping us. Ed



"It's easy to tell when it's Nativity Play time – I can never find a tea-towel!"

With the General Election on the way...

A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman of the next generation.

To the victor belong the toils. *Adlai E Stevenson*

I have never found, in a long experience of politics, that criticism is ever inhibited by ignorance. *Harold Macmillan*

Campaign tactics: He who slings mud generally loses ground. *Adlai Stevenson*

The reason we are so pleased to find out other people's secrets is that it distracts public attention from our own. *Oscar Wilde*

November Meeting



For our November meeting, members were encouraged to bring a friend and we were pleased to welcome some 20 new ladies to this month's gathering. There had been two very successful trips in October, one to Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary and Bicton Gardens and an evening theatre trip to Yeovil to see Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Our speaker this month was Martin Surrey from Freewheelers, a motorbike courier service delivering medical items. Martin started by telling us that the Yeovil Freewheelers was formed in 1978 with the object of providing a service to hospitals delivering practically anything - blood, samples, medication, documents and even on occasions in the early days, false teeth and slippers left behind at hospital.

Nowadays, the Yeovil Freewheelers operate a 24hr service staffed completely by volunteers. They have a fleet of 6 motor bikes that includes BMWs, Hondas and the latest Yamaha FJR 1300 which was purpose built for blood bike duties. All the fleet bikes are fitted with blue lights and sirens. Last year they made over 1,800 urgent and emergency deliveries to hospitals, hospices, and nursing homes as well as private addresses across much of Somerset and all of Dorset.

After the talk, members enjoyed tea and cake and time browsing though the upcoming trips: a coach trip for Christmas shopping in Wells, a Christmas meal at The Crown in Marnhull and a trip to the WI carol service in Sherborne Abbey.

Next month we are looking forward to having Mike Spencer give us a talk on Mountains & Maharajas followed by a Christmas buffet. New members are always welcome to come and join us.

Yvonne Lound

Wise?

When I told my children the story of how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus, my six-year-old daughter was not impressed. "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

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DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.

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Services for December

The Benefice of Spire Hill



Purse Caundle - Stalbridge
Stock with Kings Stag - Stourton Caundle

1 December

The First Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Stalbridge	Holy Communion CWI
11.00am	Kings Stag	Morning Worship CW
11.00am	Purse Caundle	Holy Communion CWI (<i>Trad</i>)
4.00pm	Stalbridge	Evening Prayer BCP

8 December

The Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Stalbridge	Holy Communion CWI
11.00am	Stourton Caundle	Holy Communion CWI
4.00am	Stalbridge	Evening Prayer BCP

15 December

The Third Sunday of Advent

8.00am	Stalbridge	Holy Communion CWI (<i>Trad</i>)
9.30am	Stalbridge	Morning Worship
11.00am	Kings Stag	Carol Service

22 December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00am	Stock Gaylard	Holy Communion CWI (<i>Trad</i>)
9.00am	Stalbridge	Holy Communion CWI
11.00am	Stourton Caundle	Morning Worship
5.00pm	Purse Caundle	Carol Service
6.30pm	Stalbridge	Carol Service

24 December

Christmas Eve

4.00pm	Stalbridge	Christingle & Crib Service
6.30pm	Stourton Caundle	Carol Service
10.00pm	Purse Caundle	Holy Communion CWI
11.30pm	Stalbridge	Holy Communion CWI

25 December

Christmas Day

9.30am	Stalbridge	Holy Communion CWI
11.00am	Stourton Caundle	Holy Communion CWI

29 December

The First Sunday of Christmas

10.00am	Stalbridge	Christmas Praise
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