



Sedgeberrow

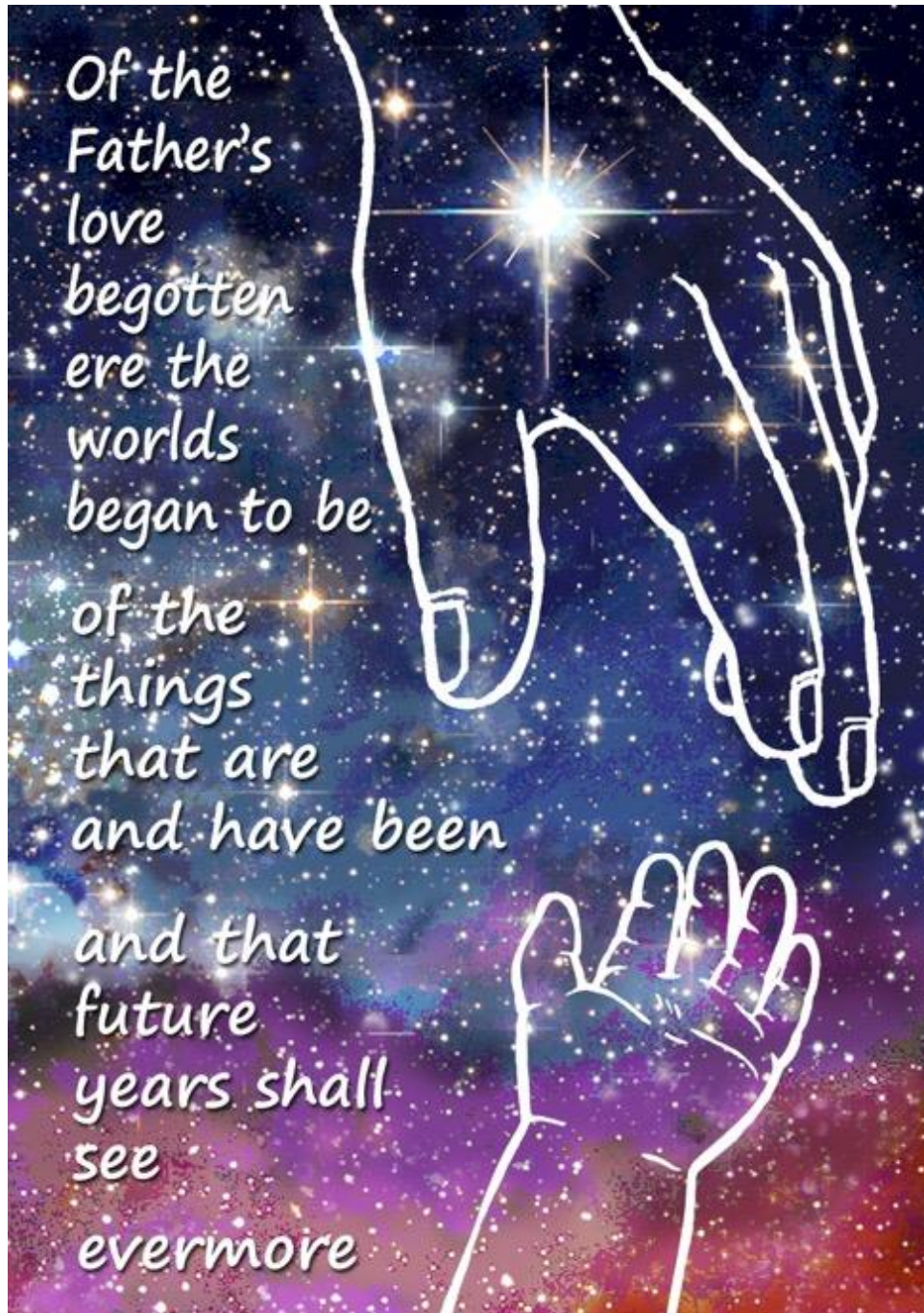


Hampton – Fairfield – Thistledown  
Eastwick Park – Charity Crescent



Hinton on the Green

# THE HERALD



The magazine of the Churches of  
Hampton, with Sedgeberrow  
and Hinton on the Green

30p

December 2023  
[www.hamptonchurch.org.uk](http://www.hamptonchurch.org.uk)

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Articles are submitted on the understanding that they may be edited to fit the available space.

**Articles can be submitted by email to: editor@hamptonchurch.org.uk**

or sent to the editor at The Parish Office, Hampton Vicarage, Pershore Road, WR11 2PQ

Large Print editions of the magazine are available on request.



## An Article by Bishop Martin Gorick

I don't know about you, but I rather dread turning on the news these days. It seems to have been particularly awful recently. The horrendous attack by Hamas and the taking of hundreds of hostages. The consequent attacks on Hamas in Gaza with such devastating consequences for innocent civilians living in that crowded land and unable to escape. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has not gone away of course, and there have been tragic attacks on Christians in Armenia, Pakistan and India that have gone largely unreported. If we add to these the cost-of-living crisis in this country, and the accelerating climate crisis affecting every country, it is easy to feel deep despair and a sense of hopelessness in the face of it all. As the psalmist said, 'I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where is my help to come?'

Christmas gives a message of hope, but not false hope. It speaks of the Logos or Word, the divine energy at the heart of all things, the dynamic force behind all creation, all that is. The source of inspiration for all human beings. This Logos is forever sustaining the universe and breaking into our consciousness, but in the birth of Jesus that Word was made flesh, once and for all. Jesus was born in Israel/Palestine in another dark time

in that region's history. But God is as he is in Jesus, therefore we have hope. As St John says in the first few verses of his amazing gospel: 'In him was life and that life was the light of all people.'

Terrible things do happen in our world. Innocent men, women and children were killed in Jesus' lifetime too and yet he still preached and lived a gospel of peace and hope – right to the end and his death on the cross. But evil and hatred will never have the last word: 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'

At Christmas we rejoice in God with us, Emmanuel. We rejoice in a hope for justice in this world, and for hope of a justice beyond this life too, when every wrong is put right and God is all in all.

May God be a blessing to you this Christmas time, and may you be filled with hope and love for God's world.

*Loving God, we thank you for the message of peace that Christmas brings to our distracted world. We pray for peace in our world, peace in our streets, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts, as we celebrate the birth at Bethlehem of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Bishop Martin**

## In our Thoughts and Prayers

*'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light'* Isaiah 9:2

Advent is a time of preparation when we look forward to the coming of the Christ child. As we prepare to celebrate with our friends and family let us spare a thought for those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We pray for all who have lost loved ones during the past year and for those in countries torn apart by warfare.

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in thee.* Charles Wesley



In our own country we remember those who will struggle to make ends meet or who will be alone during the festive season. We ask for God's blessing on food banks and community centres which bring cheer to those in need.

*Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.* Christina Rossetti

And we pray that we may not be too busy to contemplate the wondrous message brought to the shepherds by the angel:

*'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.'* Luke 2:10-11 AV

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### From the Registers - October 2023

Baptisms		
1 October	Florence Durant	Sedgeberrow
8 October	Maisy Fensome	Hampton
22 October	Alex Williams	Sedgeberrow
29 October	Lyra Middleton	Hampton
Weddings		
28 October	Anthony Gisbourne and Amber Wardle	Hampton
Funerals		
11 October	Jean Hutchings	Vale Crematorium

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# Licensing of our new Archdeacon of Worcester

**Mark Badger** will be licensed as our new **Archdeacon of Worcester** by Bishop John during Evensong in Worcester Cathedral at 5.30pm on Saturday 2 December. Mark has most recently been the Rector of Kempsey & Severn Stoke w Croome d'Abitot & Norton on the edge of Worcester, as well as Area Dean of Malvern and Upton. He succeeds Robert Jones who retired at the end of November.



As Archdeacon, Mark will have oversight of parishes and clergy in the four deaneries of Worcester, Malvern and Upton, Kidderminster and Stourport, and Pershore and Evesham. He will also have responsibility for our diocesan priority to double the number of children and young people in our churches by 2030 and support parishes in their ministry to new housing developments.

Mark said: "I was humbled and honoured to be asked to become the next Archdeacon of Worcester. I hope that I can continue Archdeacon Robert's work in being a pastor to the people in the Archdeaconry, helping them to feel loved and listened to and enabling them to continue to grow in their relationship with God and each other. I am looking forward to taking on a range of different responsibilities as Archdeacon."

***All are welcome to the service in the Cathedral on 2 December.***

## Christmas Services

### Hampton

- 3 December – 10am – Toy Service
- 17 December – 4pm – Carol and Christingle
- 24 December – 4pm - Crib and Carol Service (Churchyard)
- 24 December – 11.30pm – Christmas Eucharist
- 25 December – 10 am - Parish Eucharist

### Sedgeberrow

- 17 December – 10am – Carols + Tree Memorial
- 24 December – 4pm - Crib Service
- 25 December – 10am – Christmas Communion

### Hinton

- 10 December – 11am – Carols and Crib Service
- 24 December – 8pm - Christmas Eucharist

# St Andrews Church

# Festive Workshops

## 9th December 10.30 am

In Church



## Wreath Making or Festive Icing



**All materials and refreshments provided**  
£15.00 per person

Contact: Margaret Thomson 07917726411

## St Mary the Virgin, Sedgeberrow

Our coffee mornings are still going well, the next one is the Christmas one, on **Thursday 14 December** at 10am.

We will be decorating Christmas trees for our Christmas display in the Church. If anyone would like to join in, please ring Ann Banks on 01386 881623 or 07881695596 for details.

On Sunday 17 December there will be a Memorial Service at 10am, to remember loved ones. Please get in touch with Ann Banks for further details.

On Friday 22 December there is a Carols and Curry Evening at 6pm. Again, please ring Ann Banks to book.

On Sunday 24 December we have our Crib Service at 4pm.



### **ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH**

### **THE TWO C'S MONTHLY TEAS**

### **Conversation & Company**

For those who are lonely or bereaved.

Please come & join us for - **Traditional Afternoon Tea**

Last Sunday of the month

**Next one – 28 January 2024 from 2.30 – 4.30**

**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

Hampton Guide and Scout Hall

For Further Information: Elaine Major 01386 40722

### **For all those who are sick, in special need or house- bound:**

Mary Andrews; Sue Burdett; Dave Cockram; Brenda Curtis; John Darby; Heather Gibbs; Duncan Houston; Carolyn Jenkins; Annabelle Keen; Joan Parry; Mila Sosna; Carol Thould; Jennifer Waters



### **For those who have died, and all who mourn them:**

Daphne Hotchkins, Jean Hutchings, Patricia Williams, Ruth Taplin and Dawn Williams

**ST ANDREW'S TOTS**  
**HAMPTON GUIDE & SCOUT HALL**  
 Every Tuesday in term time, at 9.30am

For further information:  
 Margaret Thomson 01386 47541 or  
 look at our Facebook page



**The Tea Service - All Saints Church**

Every Friday afternoon from 2pm - 3pm  
 A short service with tea and cakes  
 Everyone is welcome, especially anyone living with or  
 caring for someone living with dementia  
 Contact Rosie on 01386 442213



**Sudoku Solutions (from p16)**

**Easy Sudoku**

5	9	7	8	1	2	3	4	6
1	3	2	4	9	6	5	7	8
8	4	6	5	7	3	2	1	9
2	7	5	1	8	9	6	3	4
4	8	3	2	6	7	1	9	5
9	6	1	3	4	5	7	8	2
7	2	8	9	5	1	4	6	3
6	5	4	7	3	8	9	2	1
3	1	9	6	2	4	8	5	7

**Medium Sudoku**

6	1	5	2	7	3	8	4	9
3	8	9	1	6	4	5	7	2
7	2	4	5	8	9	1	6	3
5	7	1	8	3	6	9	2	4
8	4	2	7	9	5	6	3	1
9	6	3	4	1	2	7	8	5
4	3	7	9	5	8	2	1	6
1	9	6	3	2	7	4	5	8
2	5	8	6	4	1	3	9	7



# Christian Aid -Urgent Appeal for the People of Gaza

Thousands of people have been killed and over a million displaced after the recent escalation of violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.

In Gaza, a humanitarian crisis is unfolding. 7,028 Palestinians have been killed and 18,482 injured. Over 1.4 million have been displaced from their homes; supplies of water and food are fast running out.

We're urging all parties to abide by international law to protect innocent civilians and agree to an immediate de-escalation of this unprecedented violence.

In Gaza, our medical partner is providing mobile medical and psychological care, which ranges from access to a doctor, nurse, social worker or physiotherapist.

In southern Gaza, our partner is responding to those most recently displaced to southern Gaza as a result of the war. They're providing mattresses, medicines, and emergency food items.

We're also actively exploring ways in which we might also support Israeli civilians who've been directly impacted by the violence.

Your donations can make a huge difference to the current conditions of all those affected. Please go to: <https://give.christianaid.org.uk>



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## Events Update – December 2023

St Andrew's Tots	Tues	5 Dec 9.30am	Scout & Guide Hall
<b>Open Church &amp; Crafts</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>9 Dec 10.00am</b>	<b>Hampton</b>
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	12 Dec 9.30am	Scout & Guide Hall
Coffee Morning	Thurs	14 Dec - 10am	Sedgeberrow
Community Coffee Morning	Wed	13 Dec 11am	Hampton
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	19 Dec 9.30am	Scout & Guide Hall

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## O little town of Bethlehem

*By Bob Peters, vice-chair of the Association for Church Editors*

During Holy Week in 1982 I was with a party of Christian pilgrims in the Holy Land. We arrived in Tel Aviv at the time Israel and Lebanon were at war and were greeted on the first evening by a high ranking Israeli general who assured us that we were safe if we did not wander off on our own. And this proved to be true.



One result of the war meant that on a few of the days our programme of visits was changed, sometimes while we were travelling in a coach. Whenever we set off, we were never sure where we were heading!

On one occasion we were a short distance from a restaurant where we expecting to enjoy a traditional Israeli lunch, but we were hastily diverted to a different town. It was the only time our guide and the driver, showed any sign of concern. We learnt later that the original restaurant had been bombed.

Often in the morning it was very chilling to see aircraft flying low over our hotel heavily laden with missiles and bombs. And it was even more chilling when they returned later completely empty.

Another chilling place on our pilgrimage — although this time it was a pleasant chill — was the birth place of Jesus in Bethlehem, which was under Palestinian control. Having experienced the hustle and bustle of the wealthy cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the little town of Bethlehem came as a shock.

Jesus, Christ the King, was not only born in the poverty of a stable fit only for animals, but was also born in one of the poorest and most deprived parts of our world.

It is easy to understand why Jesus showed such compassion and love for the poor and the sick people he met during his ministry on earth — he not only understood their situation, but he had also grown up with them.

If I have the opportunity, I would happily return to the little Palestinian town of Bethlehem that we will be singing fondly about this month during Christmastide, and also remembering it as we put up our nativity sets. It was during my visit to Bethlehem that I bought my first nativity.

if you have an opportunity, a more realistic image of Bethlehem is a small number of what are claimed to be Banksy's drawings on walls in Bethlehem. The drawings reflect the conflict of peace and violence that haunts the poor little town of Bethlehem that God chose to adopt for his son's birth.

## No more 'postcode lottery' recycling

Life is going to become simpler when it comes to recycling.

From 2026, the national recycling laws are to be standardised, with Councils across the UK all having to collect the same glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, food waste and garden waste. It is expected that the plans will lead to packaging that is clearly labelled 'recyclable' or not, without the need for households to check local provisions.



“Simpler recycling will help us all recycle more easily, doing our bit to help save the planet and make the best use of precious resources that we use every day,” said Therese Coffey, the Environment Secretary.

“Alongside weekly food waste collections, we are ending the postcode lottery of what you can put in your bin, so that wherever you live in the country, you will be able to recycle the same products with confidence.”

To get a Wychavon Recycling Guide, visit [www.wychavon.gov.uk/recycling-guide](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/recycling-guide)



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## Drink tea or coffee each day - and keep old age weakness away!

Recent research has found that drinking coffee or tea in midlife may help keep you stronger in later life.

A study at the National University of Singapore concluded that higher caffeine intake is associated with lower odds of physical frailty in old age, regardless of the source of the caffeine.

Physical frailty in old age was defined as having at least two of the following: weight loss, exhaustion, slowness and weakness. The scientists also measured handgrip strength and the time taken to complete a timed up-and-go (TUG) test.

In addition to caffeine, coffee and tea contain rich bioactive polyphenols, which have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. These have been associated with reduced risk for diseases that increase frailty, such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, obesity and neurodegenerative disease.

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# St Andrew's CE First School

## Successful Learners; Success for Life.



The second half of our Autumn term is well underway, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed engaging launches for their new topics. Year 5's topic is 'Out of this World'. They explored the heliocentric model of our solar system and created their own mnemonics to remember the order of the planets. They then investigated the size of each planet using fruit - from a tiny peppercorn to a watermelon. Their efforts were 'out of this world' 5MS!

In November, Year 1 ventured on a trip to 'The Mad Museum' in Stratford-upon-Avon. The children had so much fun playing with the different toys there. Their favourite was the clapping hands and marble run. They loved the fact that the marble run was magnetic, and they could make their own marble run. Lots of problem solving and team work was involved here. The children were so well behaved and demonstrated our school values excellently.

To mark Armistice Day, our pupils observed a silence in our special assembly to remember and honour those who lost their lives in the two World Wars, and the British soldiers killed or injured since 1945. It also reflected our respect for everyone who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their tomorrows for our today. Our Year 5 Ambassadors sold poppies and poppy related items in exchange for a suggested donation. All proceeds were donated to the Royal British Legion.

### **Also in November, St Andrew's celebrated Children in Need.**

On Friday 17 November, in exchange for a donation, children came into school wearing 'Bold and Bright' colours! Lots of money was raised for such a worthwhile cause.

As Christmas quickly approaches, we are getting ready for our celebrations, with rehearsals for their nativities and Christmas carols for their concerts.

Finally, everyone at St Andrew's School would like to wish our local community a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Joel Turvey – Headteacher

Tel: 01386 41351

[office@st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk)

[www.st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk)



## 21 December

## Winter Solstice

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.

Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. "Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!... You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green..." But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.

By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: 'Against the feast of Christmas, every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the yeare afforded to be greene.'

*Editor: When I was growing up near Liverpool, I attended a Church of England Primary School. Every December we were taken to the Church next to the school, to participate in the 'Wreathing' Service. This still happens to this day, here is a fairly recent report from the local press:*

**'POSSIBLY** the only surviving church wreathing in the country took place in Holy Trinity Church (Formby). During the simple but moving service children attired as the familiar Biblical individuals of the Nativity, carried figurines to place in the awaiting crib for the Blessing of the Crib. As this happened, the age-old story of Christ's birth was retold, largely through readings and congregational carols. At the end of the service, many willing hands carried lines of carefully woven evergreens around the church. On command, these were skilfully lifted up, by pre-placed hooks, to form a complete ring around the building, and the Christmas tree lights were turned on. Even in this age of alleged sophistication, symbolism can still play a major role in conveying powerful messages. In the Wreathing Ceremony the evergreens tell of Jesus as bringer of eternal life and the circle speaks of God always with us. Many societies and religions have and do celebrate light at this gloomy time of the year. For Christians, the lights represent the baby, born to be the Light of the World. In a world as anxious and angry as this, Hope is indeed precious.'

## RECIPE - Mincemeat Cake

(A Lighter Alternative to the Traditional Rich Fruit Cake)

### INGREDIENTS

- 150g soft margarine
- 150g light soft brown sugar
- 2 eggs,
- 225g self-raising flour
- 75g ground almonds
- 75g sultanas
- 450g jar of mincemeat
- **To decorate**
- 25g flaked almonds

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat the oven to 160C/140C fan/gas 3.
2. Butter a deep 20cm round cake tin and line the base and sides with baking parchment.
3. Put all the ingredients, except for the flaked almonds, in a large bowl, and mix well until blended.
4. Spoon the mixture into the tin, level the surface and scatter over the flaked almonds.
5. Bake for about 1 hr 45 mins, until golden, firm and a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean. If there is still raw cake mix, cover loosely with foil to prevent burning, and return to the oven for another 5-10 mins.
6. Leave to cool in the tin, then remove the paper and keep in an airtight tin.



### Carols and Mince Pies

Evesham Market Place

Saturday 2 December 11am



**Join in the Carol Singing - All Welcome**



## Christmas Quiz

1. What is the chemical formula of snow?
2. What is another name for frozen CO<sub>2</sub>?
3. Which charity in 1949 was the first to produce a Christmas card?
4. Brandy is made by distilling what?
5. Which famous comedy double-act partner made the first civilian UK mobile phone call on New Year's Day 1985?
6. Pine needles are said to be good source of which vitamin?
7. Who sang theme song for 'The Snowman'?
8. What is a baby turkey called, other than a chick?
9. In which country does La Befana deliver Christmas presents to children?
10. From what does the month of December take its name?
11. What did Scottish students take from Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1950?
12. How many courses are in a traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve supper?
13. Which US president banned Christmas trees in the White House?
14. Who sang 'When a Child is Born'?
15. Which of the reindeer had names with a meteorological connection?

***Answers on Page 17***

## Sudoku – Easy

5		7				3		6
			4	9	6			
						2	1	
2		5		8	9	6		
4	8		2		7		9	5
		1	3	4		7		2
	2	8						
			7	3	8			
3		9				8		7

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## Sudoku - Medium

6	1			7				
					4	5		2
				8				3
	7		8			9		
		2				6		
		3			2		8	
4				5				
1		6	3					
				4			9	7

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Solutions on page 8



# Events at Worcester Cathedral

## Christmas Fayre in the Cloister

Thursday 30th November – Sunday 3 December 2023



Join us for the return of our Christmas Fayre in the Cloister this December. Pop along from Thursday 30 November - Sunday 3 December and grab your Christmas goodies in the glorious setting of our medieval cloister. There will be festive stock aplenty on offer and stalls will be open from 10am - 5pm Thursday 30 November - Saturday 2 December, and from 12.30 - 3.30pm on Sunday 3 December

## Christmas Tree Festival 2023

Thursday 7th December – Sunday 14 January 2024

Our sparkling Christmas Tree Festival will be open to visit from Thursday 7 December 2023 until Sunday 14 January 2024 (excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), during normal visiting hours - 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday (last entry 4.30pm) and 1-3pm on Sundays (last entry 2.30pm).



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### Quiz answers (from p15)

1. H2O
  2. Dry Ice
  3. UNICEF
  4. Wine
  5. Ernie Wise
  6. Vitamin C
  7. Aled Jones
  8. A Poult
  9. Italy
  10. From the Latin word decem (meaning ten) because it was originally the tenth month of the year in the Roman calendar
  11. The Stone of Scone
  12. Twelve
  13. Theodore Roosevelt
  14. Johnny Mathis
  15. Donner and Blitzen (Thunder & Lightning)
-

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## SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023

<b>3 December – Advent Sunday</b>				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Morning Praise	Hampton
		10am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
Isaiah 64: 1-19; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-end				
Wednesday 6		10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
<b>10 December – Second Sunday of Advent</b>				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Parish Eucharist	Hampton
		10am	Morning Praise	Sedgeberrow
		11am	Carols and Crib	Hinton
Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8				
Wednesday 13		10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
<b>17 December – Third Sunday of Advent</b>				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Morning Praise	Hampton
		10am	Carol + Tree Memorial	Sedgeberrow
		4pm	Carols and Christingle	Hampton
Isaiah 61: 1-4. 8-end; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28				
Wednesday 20		10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
<b>24 December – Christmas Eve</b>				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		4pm	Crib and Carol Service	Hampton Churchyard
		4pm	Crib Service	Sedgeberrow
		8pm	Christmas Eucharist	Hinton
		11.30pm	Christmas Eucharist	Hampton
2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Romans 16: 25-end; Luke 1: 26-38				
<b>25 December – Christmas Day</b>				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Parish Eucharist	Hampton
		10am	Christmas Communion	Sedgeberrow
Isaiah 9: 2-7; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-14 [15-20]				
<b>31 December – First Sunday of Christmas</b>				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Asum Eucharist	All Saints
Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 16-21				

## SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2024

Wednesday 3		10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
<b>7 January – Second Sunday of Christmas</b>				
		8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		10am	Morning Praise	Hampton
		10am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow

# Merstow Green Funeral Home

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**Carol Phillips DipFD**

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- Floral Tributes
- Memorial Masonry
- Prepaid funeral plans
- Transparent pricing

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20 Merstow Green, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 4BD

**Call us for immediate support, advice or to arrange a home visit or  
to find out more about our prepaid funeral plans.**

**We are here to help 24 hours a day.**



[www.merstowgreen.co.uk](http://www.merstowgreen.co.uk)

