GROVE VINE

Online Edition

The Magazine of Grove Methodist Church Horsforth, Leeds

December2020/January2021



The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission

Minister – Rev Mark Godfrey

Phone: 0113 258 2678 or email: revmgodfrey@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

The Christmas story is one of the best-known there is. We've heard it so often, we know it so well, that it is very hard for us to imagine what it must have been like for those who were involved. It is hard for us to appreciate the sense of wonder that the shepherds must have felt. The angels announced to them that their Saviour had been born, truly incredible news.

Saviour was a title given to God himself in the Old Testament. God was the Saviour because he had saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Yet this title was now being used of Jesus, this new baby born in Bethlehem. The incredible news the angels brought was that God himself was born on earth. God himself had come to live among us. Even more amazing was that this Saviour was born in a stable.

So often, God chooses to work through what seems to be small and insignificant. All through history, throughout the Old Testament, God so often chooses the youngest or the weakest to achieve his purposes. God doesn't come with power and force to make people take notice of him, to make people follow in his way. Jesus was born in a stable, he came into the world humbly, and yet there was no doubt at all about the wonder of the event.

It is obvious that the glory and wonder of what the shepherds found at the stable had a profound effect on them. They immediately went and told everyone about it, they wanted everyone to know what they had heard and seen. Word got about very quickly even though it could only travel by word of mouth and not by telephone or by television news.

The good news of the birth of Jesus was so important the shepherds just had to tell people, they couldn't keep this news to themselves. This good news is so dynamic and exciting that we cannot keep it to ourselves. This is the greatest news of all that God loves the world so much that he sent his only son Jesus to live among us.

We know that Christmas will be very different this year whatever the government eventually allows us to do. Many of our much-loved services will not take place. If we are allowed to meet up with family and friends, it will be on a much more limited scale than usual. However the truth we celebrate is the same truth as always, that God has shown the reality and depth of his love in the amazing gift of his son born in a stable.

With best wishes,

Mark



Church Family News......

Please remember in your prayers over this Christmas time and new year all those known to us who face a variety of difficulties; bereavement; health problems; anxiety about loved ones loneliness and isolation. Remember especially those who have Covid19 that they may fully recover their health and those who are caring for them risking their own lives in so doing; all vulnerable people that they may stay safe and well.

Pray also for our government that they may have wisdom in the days that lie ahead.



Farewell

I was only able to say Goodbye to a few people before I left Horsforth on 27th October, so I am taking this opportunity to say Thank You for the friendship and fellowship I have enjoyed at the Grove and Central for the past 33 years. It is the longest and the happiest stay I have had in one circuit.



The move was organised in rather a hurry so that I could be settled before another lockdown, but one delay after another meant that it didn't happen and I was staying with Susi and her family, with all my worldly goods crammed into her garage.

I finally got the keys to my new flat on 10th November and moved in on the 21st with the help of Susi's neighbours who lent us a van and contrived to load it while keeping the required distance apart.

Unloading was a family affair. I knew having two strapping 6ft- plus grandsons would be useful sometime!

My new address is: 7 Ancholme Mews, BRIGG, Lincs DN20 8BF

The telephone is 0165 279 4068

So farewell. I hope you will all have as happy a Christmas as is possible in present circumstances and my prayer is that 2021 will be a time of blessing and health.

God bless Gladys



To All Our Friends at The Grove

We wish you the beauty of friendship, the joy of good health, the comfort of peace and the blessings of Christ as we celebrate His birth



Instead of sending Christmas Cards, we have made donations to our favourite charities:

Alzheimer's Society; Amnesty International; Breast Cancer Research; British Heart Foundation; Cancer Research UK; Cats Protection League; Children's Heart Surgery Fund; Children's Liver Disease Fund; Christian Aid; Compassionate Friends; Crisis; Diabetes UK; Downs Syndrome Association; Grove Methodist Church; Guide Dogs for the Blind; Imperial Cancer; Kidney Research UK; Laura Crane Youth Cancer Trust; Leprosy Mission; Marie Curie Cancer Care; Martin House; Mercy Ships; Methodist Relief and Development Fund (All We Can); MHA; Multiple Sclerosis Society; MPS (Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases); Muscular Dystrophy; Myeloma and Leukemia; NCH Action for Children; Oxfam; PDSA; PhysioNet; Pituitary Society; REACH; RNIB; RNID; RNLI; Salvation Army; SCOPE; Shelter; St George's Crypt; Take Heart; Versus Arthritis; Wheatfields Hospice; Yorkshire Air Ambulance, and Yorkshire Cancer Research.

Philip and Carole Abel; Ann Bailey; Kath Ashby; Barbara Bainbridge; Brian and Margaret Ball: Pam Beck: Bill and Morag Black: Anne Blackburn: David and Barbara Buckley; John and Kathryn Bussey; Harry Castle; Barbara Collis; Jean Douglas; Eric and Linda Douglass; Carol Emmott; Alan and Sharon Firth: Trevor and Jean Fox: Ken and Betty France: Bill and Lynne Gill and family; Mark and Jenny Godfrey; Anthony and Rita Grainger; Christine Harding; Brian and Wendy Hartley; Cynthia Hatton; Ricky and Christine Hearn; Margaret Heaton; Dave and Shirley Hodgson; Graham and Carol Hoyle; Elaine Hudson; Albert and Gill Jewell; Nev and Joan Kaye; John and Susan Kitching and family; Lizzie Lambert; Pauline Low; Gill and Andrew Marley; Eileen Marsey; Phil and Allison Maud and family; Peter and Janette Mawson; Gordon and Mary Mellor; Jack Myers; Jennifer and Trevor Newby; Vera O'Hara; Tony and Jean Orton; Mel and Dorina Overson; Gladys Pagden; Sylvia Parker; Gwen Pattison; Tom and Jean Payne; David and Margaret Pontefract; Madaleine Price; David and Pauline Quick: Elaine Ramsden: Peter Reasbeck: Chris and Christine Seller; Paul Shagouri; Sheila Shippey; Ruth Symons; Judi Swales; Howard and Beryl Thompson; Paul Thompson and Louise Harding and family: Chris and Caroline Turner: Andy Walker: Michael and Janet Wallis: Helena Watkins; David and Evelyn Whiteley; Brian and Mitzi Whitham; Keith and Trish Whitham: Betty Wigglesworth: Margaret Wilks.



Action for Children

As most of you will know **Action for Children** is a Methodist charity started in 1869 by Methodist minister the Rev. Thomas Bowman Stephenson in London for boys found living in the streets. A second home was opened in Lancashire in 1872 and girls were admitted. The homes were divided into small family units run by a 'house mother' and 'house father', which was in marked contrast to the large institutions and workhouses common at the time.

Training was also an important aspect. A childcare course was set up in 1878 and the graduates of this programme went on to work in the Homes.

With an increasing number of homes across the country in 1908 the name of the charity became the National Children's Home and Orphanage. In 1994 the word 'Orphanage' was dropped from the name, then it became the NCH Action for Children and more recently Action for Children.

Last year, people like you helped them reach **368,648** children, young people and families in the UK. Thousands of wonderful supporters made a life-changing difference in so many ways. Their generosity meant our frontline key workers could help struggling families to pay for the essentials, like food, warm clothes and a safe place to sleep. You helped them to protect children living in the shadow of domestic abuse and supported those with caring responsibilities. They also supported young people with their mental health and provided short breaks for disabled children. The need for work with families is increasing whilst opportunities for collecting funds have decreased in Covid lockdowns.

* we normally give at Christingle and on the Christmas day service *.

Secret Santa is back!

This festive season, Action for Children is looking for a sleighful of Secret Santas to support our Christmas campaign begun in 2018. For most of us, the festive season is a happy time. But there are children all over the UK who face a Christmas without food, warmth or love; Coronavirus has had a devastating impact on their lives. We are working hard to change this – and we need your help more than ever. To become a Secret Santa visit

https://secretsanta.actionforchildren.org.uk/

Starry Night – virtual Christmas carol

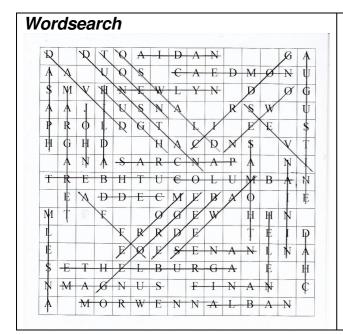
On **Tuesday 8th December** at 6.30pm, join us and families across the UK for an evening of Christmas carols, fun and festive cheer hosted by Channel 4 News' Jon Snow. Tickets are £10 per household and will give you access to exclusive entertainment, readings, and performances from celebrities including Angellica Bell and Call the Midwife's Jenny Agutter. All this from the comfort of your own home.

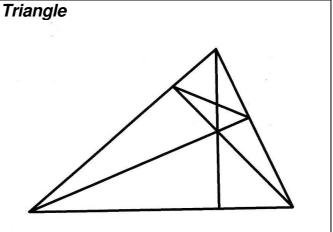
Buy tickets here: www.starry-night.co.uk

I recognise that not everyone can avail themselves of the internet opportunities to donate to this work, so I emailed the customer services and got their postal address which I could not find on the website. I had a personal reply thanking us (the Grove Methodist Church) They would be very appreciative of the support of The Grove Methodist Church during these difficult times. All donations can be posted to their Watford office: 3 The Boulevard, Ascot Road, Watford, WD18 8AG

Ed.

Solutions to the November 2020 Puzzles





There are 24 triangles in this diagram (details available by email request).

Countdown (two solutions for each - there may be more).

 $595 = 6 \times 2 \times 50 - 9 + 4 \text{ OR } (50 + 4)(9 + 2) + 1$

592 = (6 + 2)75 - 9 + 1 OR (75 - 1)(10 - 2)

 $623 = 100 \times 6 + 10 + 4 \times 3 \times 3 \text{ OR } (100 + 4)6 - 3/3$

 $566 = (50 - 3) \times 10 + 100 - 4 \text{ OR } (50 + 4 + 3)10 - 100/25$





DECEMBER 24TH 6PM: CHRISTINGLE WILL NOT HAPPEN AT THE GROVE!

Phil Maud has recorded a 15 minute 'mini-Christingle' which is being sent to Primary Schools and Churches in our area. At the time of printing we did not have a link to this. Google 'Grove Methodist Church Horsforth' and go to our website. You can then watch it at your leisure.

Purists may want to wait until Christmas eve, shortly after you have been outside your house for the 6pm 'Jingle.

Happy Christmas to all our 'Christinglers'.

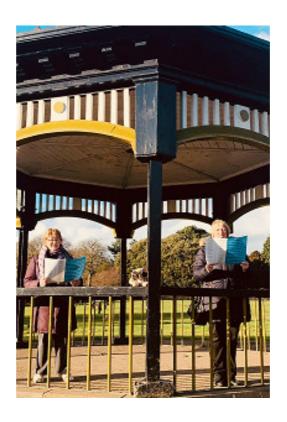


Carols in the Park:

A socially distanced event this year.

Thanks to Carole Abel and Carol Hoyle.







GOD IS WITH US RESOURCES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Have a look at the Methodist Church (national website for the following:

- #God is with Us Christmas campaign 2020.
 24 testimonies (one per day from Dec 1st like an advent calendar).
 You will find stunning testimony from a variety of people who have found hope in these demanding times.
- 2. JPIT (Joint Public Issues Team, Methodist /URC): 4 reflections (one per week throughout December) on Isaiah 9: "wonderful counsellor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace".
- 3. Singing the Faith Plus: advent worship liturgies and new hymns.



The Holly ... and the lvy?



The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown!



The Trade Descriptions Act should ban that carol.

Why do you think that?

Because it's called 'The Holly and the Ivy', but the ivy is only mentioned once in the entire carol. Why does the holly receive so much emphasis?

Well, it's the most widely used evergreen Christmas decoration, isn't it? And as it says in the carol, the holly bears the crown.

And who made that idea up?

No idea! The carol quite likely has a long history, so there's nobody to remember. But it probably has pagan origins, and the Holly King, the lord of the winter wildwood, has always been very significant to the druids.

Aaaaah! So that's why we don't sing it in church! Because of the druids!

Well, I'm sure I have sung it in carol services in the past, but it's hard to find it in today's hymn books. Also, the words are a bit strange in places.

Strange!? I remember the chorus was incomprehensible! How does it go?

'O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer, The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.'

That's it! What has all that got to do with Christmas?

The words of the second line surely aren't unusual in Christmas carols. But the first line is puzzling, and it isn't clear where it came from. 'The running of the deer' is totally irrelevant to Christmas.

But the tune's the same for the verses and the chorus, isn't it? So we could just miss that chorus out, if we wanted to.

Yes. Some people think that chorus is a later addition to the carol, and the first verse might have been the original chorus.

It's a pity about the strange words, really, because it has a good tune.

And many people think traditional items ought to be preserved, even if only in concerts, when we can sing Christian words to a wider audience.

So is there a Christian message in the carol?

Oh yes, all four middle verses are relevant.

What are they? I don't remember them.

First, 'the holly bears a blossom as white as the lily flower, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Saviour' - the whiteness presumably being a reference to purity.

Next, 'the holly bears a berry as red as any blood, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good', which might be intended to remind us of Christ's crucifixion.

Then, 'the holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas day in the morn', which has always been taken as a reference to the crown of thorns.

And finally, 'the holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all', which is more difficult to interpret, but may relate to the drink Christ was offered on the Cross.

It seems rather old-fashioned to me, but maybe it's also quite clever.

You might prefer a Cornish carol known as 'The Sans Day Carol', which has a very similar theme. It is sung quite often in carol concerts.

Does ivy feature in that?

No, but the holly is described repetitively as 'the first tree in the greenwood'. Also, the words aren't so old-fashioned, and it's quite lively.

Oh! I don't know that one. Let's learn it!

Tony Orton



CAN YOU HELP?

Thursday 10th and Saturday 12th December:

Horsforth ChurchesTogether are looking for volunteers to help deliver their Christmas card to every house in Horsforth.

In 'normal' times churches would be given packs of cards and certain streets to cover.

This year we want to 'blitz' the village on the two days above.

It will be a case of arriving at a central location (yet to be decided), taking lots of cards and setting off on prescribed streets.

Please let me know if and when you are available.

Phil Maud: philmaud@hotmail.com 07305740623



Manse Furniture

As each new year begins, we are informed of anniversaries to be celebrated in the coming months. Newspaper editors, TV and radio producers must have long lists of such occasions and trailer them well in advance.

One anniversary they will all miss, understandably, is the move that was made fifty years ago in Methodism, to enable Methodist ministers to buy their own furniture.

Wow. Enough to shake the foundations of society!

But first. The 1950s. I was let loose out of college in 1958 to be a minister and I received my first stipend. I was intrigued by one item: a soft furnishing allowance. On enquiring, I discovered that, until fairly recently, everything in a manse had been provided including all the furniture, household linen, bedding, crockery, cutlery. Everything. (Rather like the holiday accommodation now available to families who spend a week or more getting used to someone else's kitchen etc).

There was initially good reason for this. Until the second world war, it was unusual for a minister to stay in a circuit more than three years and in earlier generations it could often be for two years or even one. It made sense that a family could not be trailing all their possessions from place to place at such short intervals.

So when ministers were responsible for their own 'soft furnishings', an allowance was awarded by way of compensation, so that the minister and his wife could buy their own pillows and tea towels.

Now to 1970. Some ministers' wives took the campaign for owning their own furniture to the heavily male-dominated Methodist Conference and succeeded in winning the argument. Ministers would be responsible for their own furniture. This meant a complicated system for arranging the transfer of the existing furniture, depending on its condition. If a dining table, say, were considered antique, it had to be valued and the minister had the option of buying it. At the other extreme, if something was nearing the end of its days, the minister simply kept it. All this did mean that when a minister moved, a larger pantechnicon was required, alleviated by the fact that ministers were staying much longer.

(When sending this article to Gill, as this month's editor, she tells me that she was a speaker at the meeting called to further the case for ministers to have their own furniture and I have seen her photograph (of fifty years ago) and a quotation. Interestingly, two of the wives pictured in the Methodist Recorder article have their husband's names rather than their own. Mrs. Arthur Bird and Mrs. Harold Bowes. How quaint!)

This is not an anniversary of the kingdom breaking in. But one of those interesting quirks in the life of ministry.

Peter Reasbeck

(Luckily for our readers there was no room for the above mentioned photograph! Ed.)



Many thanks to all who have supported the Foodbank in the past by leaving food and toiletries in the trolley in the church porch.

Current shortages are:

Tinned meat, vegetarian meals, tinned fruit, sponge puddings, rice pudding, tinned and instant mashed potatoes, long life juice, cleaning products, soap and toilet rolls. (Warehouse has plenty rice, beans, pasta)

Food donations can also be made at some supermarkets including Morrison's at Horsforth LS18, Asda at Holt Park LS16, and Asda at Owlcotes, Pudsey LS28.

I am also most grateful to those who, in these difficult times, can no longer make food donations but have wanted to continue their support by donating money. Anyone who would like to do this can put their donation (labelled Foodbank) through my letter box at 18, West End Lane and I can then pay the money by bank transfer into the Foodbank account.

Demands on the foodbank are as strong as ever. Figures in early March, before lockdown, showed a 30% increase on last year and 2 new foodbanks were opened. Now that the corona virus prevents personal contact with clients food is delivered to those in need. There are plans, however, for volunteers to start a signposting service over the phone for those clients who would welcome help.

The Trussell Trust also has a recent project called "Together for Change" stressing the need for improvements in sorting benefits especially the Universal Credit. Benefit delays are the cause of many clients' problems. If you have a free hour, follow the link to find out

more: https://vimeo.com/471451081/9b21ed9c16

Jean Orton



Moves towards Protestantism in Mediaeval and 16th Century France. Part 3

François I was an impulsive and pugnacious king of France. He had dreams of conquering parts of Italy that his ancestors, particularly Louis XII, had invaded but lost. His intentions were to take his troops to recover, for France, the Duchy of Milan and further south, the city of Naples and its surrounding area. He travelled with his army through the Alps and defeated the Swiss mercenaries at Marignano, which gave him the opportunity to take Milan. The date was 1515. He advanced to Pavia, just south of Milan, but suffered disastrous defeat there and was imprisoned. During those weeks as he was incarcerated he had plenty of time to think and make some decisions. What interested him in the new religious ideas and the possible changes ahead began to fade, together with the rise in hostility from the 'Sorbonne' and the 'Parlement'.



Jean Calvin

Protestant ideas began to be accepted widely amongst the French. A man called Nicholas Cop was to be enthroned as the new rector of the Sorbonne. He was a humanist and a supporter of the 'heretical' ideas of Martin Luther. For this ceremony it was John Calvin who delivered the speech of welcome. It caused outrage when the Parisians heard about it. When it reached the king's ears, he ordered those in charge at the Sorbonne to arrest and imprison any of those who rebelled against the Roman Catholic Church. When this happened Jean Calvin fled from Paris.

The next year 'L'Affaire des Placards' or 'The Affair of the Posters' occurred. The words on these posters described the abuses of the Papal Mass in condemnatory language. They were nailed on walls or doors for the general public to view. One poster was nailed to the door of the King's bedroom! The reaction was rapid. Anything to do with Lutheranism or Humanism was brought rapidly to a stop. Jean Calvin made his way to Geneva, across the Swiss border, where he would start up a new form of protestantism among the Swiss and beyond.

The French people that he left behind did not give up their beliefs. It became more powerful as the sixteenth century progressed. It is said that 10% of the population followed this new form of religion. However, later in the century, it led to disastrous religious wars and royal banning of the practice of this new religious faith. French protestants became known as the Huguenots and, to escape death, many fled to the Netherlands and from there to England, settling, having found jobs in Spitalfields, London. King Henry IV of France gave the protestants partial liberty in 1598 but that was annulled by Louis XIV in 1685. It was not until the French Revolution 1791, that French protestants were able to practise their faith. In this century French protestants have signed declarations with the Lutherans and the Church of England to encourage the growth of Christian unity - such a contrast with all the upheavals of their earlier days.

Christine Mathers

A Confession of faith from the French Reformed Church at the Oratory of the Louvre in Paris.

"I believe In God, the all-powerful Father of us all, Creator of heaven and earth. The Eternal One reigns. He is the Holy Spirit. He is love. The eternal love of God for us has been revealed in this way. When we were sinners God came and died for us.

"I believe in Jesus Christ, His Son, our Saviour. He came to search for and save those who were lost. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, the same yesterday, today, and for all eternity. Bearing this in mind, we will all recognise that we are children of God. We have been baptised by the one Holy Spirit to form one body of people.

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, who bears witness to us that we are children of God. We have been baptised by the one Holy Spirit to form one body of people.

"I believe in the Kingdom of God, in love stronger than death. I believe in eternal life. The victory by which the world has been conquered, is our faith. Increase Lord, in us, our faith."



THE KENWOOD - REASBECK DUO VOL 3

We are pleased to offer our third CD (conveniently recorded last January) for sale at £6. Proceeds are divided between the Grove and an autism charity.

It is an exciting list of pieces though few, if any, of the composers are well known.

(The main composers wrote little for solo oboe).

The CD includes: **A Concerto by Albinoni**, born in 1671, the composer of many treasures we are gradually discovering

Incantation and Dance by William Grant Still. He was called the Dean of Afro-American Composers and wrote over 200 works that are hardly known, largely because of his racial origin. Though there have been some recent broadcasts. The pieces we play are very powerful.

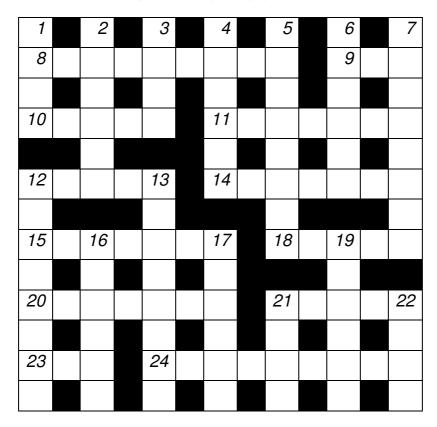
Conversation and Chaser by Diana Keech who lives in Hull and when we played her pieces at Howden Minster last year, came at our invitation. She seemed appreciative!

Ukrainian Music. Liz has been to the Ukraine six times and has brought back some evocative music, which I find difficult to get out of my mind once we have played them.

And seven more very accessible pieces. There are still copies available of the two other CDs (including **Gabriel's Oboe**).

Peter 2819566 Liz 2591580

Small Crossword 6



Across

- 8 Plant named after Greek goddess or queen of Caria (9)
- 9 Mischievous sprite there's one in the roof of Lincoln cathedral (3)
- 10 Rap (and the door shall be opened) (5)
- 11 Regards with respect (7)
- 12 Famous for its witch trials (5)
- 14 Loss of memory (7)
- 15 Mathematical OT book (7)
- 18 Hold transport (5)
- 20 A travelling companion for Paul (7)
- 21 OT prophet (5)
- 23 Number of testaments (3)
- 24 Reaction of interest and excitement (9)

Down

- 1 Earliest gospel writer (4)
- 2 Saunter, or patron saint of bread maybe (6)
- 3 Running out of control (4)
- 4 Christianity is the majority religion in this capital of Eritrea (6)
- 5 Musically pleasing (8)
- 6 Mesopotamian river (6)
- 7 Renunciation of belief (8)
- 12 Righteousness (8)
- 13 Perform music majestically (8)
- 16 False object of worship (6)
- 17 Community addressed in Revelation 2: 8-11 (6)
- 19 The big country (6)
- 21 Descendant of Lot, also later a kingdom (Gen. 19:37) (4)
- 22 There's plenty of it in Palestine(4)



St George's Church, Leeds

From their Annual report figures for the month of December 2019

- 1,410 hours given by volunteers
- 1,148 bed spaces in their Crypt (emergency accommodation)
- 1,814 free lunches

53 individuals accessed health /wellbeing provision (dental, opticians and physiotherapy)

149 food parcels

*1,985 children received a Christmas present

*this is where our gifts will go!!!!!!!!



What's On

Tuesday 8th December at 6.30pm Action for Children Christmas Carols (see p5)

Thursday 10th and Saturday 12th December: delivering Christmas cards(see p9)



From the Editorial Group

Note that the Editorial Teams alternate..... n.b. the February issue will be prepared by Paul and Jenny and you should send items to them - no later than 5pm on Wednesday 27th January Please include events and details up to 7th March.

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Paul & Jenny Redfearn home@paulandjen.co.uk 01423 530050

Email (or copy as an attachment) would be appreciated!

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