

# Your Parish MAGAZINE

What's on in  
Seer Green  
& Jordans

December 2020/  
January 2021



**Christmas  
services**

**Books for  
children**

**Seer Green  
Advent  
Calendar**

**Tweet of the  
Month**



**one pound**

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## From the Editors

This edition of the parish magazine covers the months of December and January. The celebration of Christmas and the New Year will be different this year, but there are lots of activities on offer enabling everyone to join in the fun of the festive season. There is the wonderful village advent calendar plus an opportunity to participate in a virtual nativity play. Father Christmas will be making his usual visit to the villages and the parish church is providing online services, including a Christingle

service and a Christmas celebration with carols and readings.

We have some excellent recommendations for children's books and there are several articles about local charities that you may wish to support as we consider the needs of others at this time of year.

We wish all our readers and contributors a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Sue Puttergill and  
Andrew Westlake**

## Next Month's Magazine

Please send all contributions for the **February** issue to: [editorseergreen@gmail.com](mailto:editorseergreen@gmail.com) by **7 January**. Diary dates for the next two or three months would be very welcome.

Articles should be **300 words** max and photos should be jpeg format, preferable 300 dpi.

Please note any items submitted may be edited for space, content or style.

## Are you a subscriber?

You can buy an annual subscription to this magazine for only £10 a year (for 10 issues) and it will be delivered free of charge to your door. Please email: [editorseergreen@gmail.com](mailto:editorseergreen@gmail.com) with your name, address and phone number and one of our distributors will contact you.

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## Church and Community Organisations

Vicar		Jordans Village Hall	Office 10.00 - 1.00
Cassa Messervy	01494 672496	Chris Jenkins   Booking Secretary	01494 875177
Licensed Lay Minister and Prayer Group		Jordans Village Lunch Club	
Linda West	01494 673821	Catherine Robinson	01494 873193
Churchwarden and General Enquiries		Jordans Village Nursery School	
Jane Spoerry	01494 677328	Julie Leonard	01494 875603
Janine Dunnell	07525 322955	Jordans Meals On Wheels	
Parochial Church Council		Eli Merchant	01494 873471
Audrey Hardy   Treasurer	01494 672592	Jordans Picture House	
Church Flower Guild		Alan Sealy/Box Office	01494 873205
Pam Britton	01494 678466	Jubilee Hall	
Magazine Distributors		David Howkins	01494 857760
Jen Lomas	01494 671281	Jordans Quaker Meeting House and Centre	
Jenny Scott	01494 674081	Alex Wildwood	01494 876594
Children's & Family Leader and SGKIDS		Seer Green Allotments	
Janna Holder   Family leader	07764 490960	Barry Richardson / Chairman	01494 673407
Scouts   Explorers   Cubs   Beavers		Seer Green Baptist Church	
andrew@seergreenscouts.org.uk		Andrew McCausland   Minister	01494 677266
Seer Green Brownies and 1st Seer Green Rainbows		Seer Green Bridge Club	
Carole Wharrier	07977 423555	Irene Machin   Secretary	01494 676321
Eight O'clock Club		Seer Green Church of England School	
Monica Sado	01494 677851	Sandra Park   Head Teacher	01494 676344
Girl Guides		Seer Green Gardeners	
Brenda Orr   District Commissioner	01753 887209	Jane Smith	07759 841205
Jordans and District Rotary Club		Seer Green Lunch Club	
Naomi Arnold   Secretary	01753 663305	Gill Roberts	01494 677281
Jordans Horticultural Society		Seer Green Parish Council	
Emma Pegram	01494 874574	Liz Bates   Parish Clerk	01494 874233
Shan Liu	01494 730312	Seer Green Pre school	
Faith Key	01494 870039	Kirsten Pole   Manager	01494 730060
Jordans School		Seer Green Montessori School	
Hannah Bancroft   Head Teacher	01494 874217	Libby Wilson   Director	01494 672209
Jordans Music Club		Seer Green Village Choirs	
Marion Pell   Chairman	01494 872875	Jane Smith	07759 841205

## Thought for the Month



As we come to the end of 2020, which many of us will be glad to see the back of, we may want to reflect on what we have suffered, endured, learned and noticed this year. I wonder as the chaos has swirled about us have we questioned what it is all about? Have we thought about how we might live differently, particularly as one of the key things this pandemic has revealed is its disproportionate effect on those with low incomes; how might our society be structured differently? Over this year I have seen our two villages respond in amazing ways, caring for neighbours, savouring time with family and friends, and giving generously to charities. I wonder how we will continue these as we enter 2021?

Our Christmas theme this year is 'comfort and joy' which comes from the refrain of one of my favourite carols 'God rest ye merry gentlemen'. It is rather dated in some ways, one might ask about the ladies? However, it gets to the heart of what the Christmas season (25 Dec to 2 Jan) is all about, that Jesus was born to show us what God is like and in following his 'way' we can have peace, comfort and joy. Jesus' teaching and way of life showed a radical new way of living, one that through partnership with God can effect positive change in ourselves, for the people around us and our societies. Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full". (John 10:10)

*May the joy of the angels,  
the comfort of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the love of Mary and Joseph,  
and the peace of the baby Jesus  
be yours this Christmas, Amen.*

**Reverend Cassa Messervy**



## Church Events | News

### Church News

#### Online Church Project Update

I am delighted to let you know that we have raised over £9000 for our online church project, which is amazing and a real testament to your generosity, so thank you! So far we have been able to buy a large movable screen and a new microphone for the iPhone which we use to broadcast services. Over the next few months, once the legal permission has been given, we hope to upgrade the sound system and put in cameras. We will update you in due course.

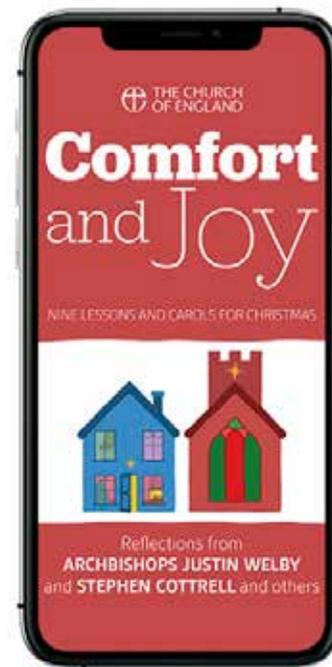
#### Christmas Services

Christmas like everything this year is going to be very different. However, in keeping with our theme of 'Comfort

and Joy' we are focussing on what we can do rather than what we can't do. So we are going to have the church open every day from **19 December** to the **27 December** (apart from 20 December 9-12pm) decorated for Christmas, playing carols for people to come in and enjoy the peace and feel 'Christmassy'. We have lots of online services for you to participate in both on Facebook and YouTube (please see the calendar).

#### Comfort and Joy

The Church of England is offering reflections on the theme Comfort and Joy from Christmas Day to 2 January based on the service of Nine Lessons and Carols.



These will be made available in booklet, email and app form. We will have booklets available in Church which is open on Tues, Thurs and Sat 9-4pm and Sunday 12-4pm.

#### Christianity Explored

Would you like to explore what Christians believe and how these beliefs bring us comfort and joy? We will be running our annual introduction to Christianity, starting in February this year.

Please contact Cassa (01494 672496 or [cassamesservy@gmail.com](mailto:cassamesservy@gmail.com)) if you would like to know more.

All good wishes,

**Reverend Cassa Messervy**

### Village Nativity

#### This Christmas we need you!

As this year it is not possible to hold our normal Crib Service, on Christmas Eve we would like to record our very own Village Nativity... but in order for this to happen I need your help!

Could you, your children, your family, be part of my cast and act out part of the story?

Could you do a reading?

Would you like to be involved in our virtual choir?

Could you or your children or grandchildren, dress up as nativity characters and take a photo of yourself?

I'm really excited about this... but it can only be possible if you are willing to get involved.

Please get in touch if you think you can help with any of the above... or think you might have something else you could contribute. Thank you!

**Janna** - 07764490960 -  
[jannaholder@talktalk.net](mailto:jannaholder@talktalk.net)

Holy Trinity children's & family worker

## Church Calendar - December 2020

### Sundays in December

- Sun 6 10am Christingle Service, familiar Christingle family service plus the fun of making your own Christingle at home this year. Streamed on Facebook and on Holy Trinity YouTube channel. The service is followed by 11-12pm Coffee and a Chat on Zoom. 3pm - Advent Meditation on Facebook and on Holy Trinity YouTube channel.
- Sun 13 10am Holy Communion on Facebook and on Holy Trinity YouTube channel shortly afterwards. The service is followed by 11-12pm Coffee and a Chat on Zoom. 3pm - Advent Meditation on Facebook and on Holy Trinity YouTube channel. 7pm - A Christmas Celebration, A service of familiar Christmas Carols and gorgeous Christmas Readings and poems. Facebook Premiere and on Holy Trinity YouTube channel.
- Sun 20 10am Service from Oxford Diocese [www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream) The service is followed by 11-12pm Coffee and a Chat on Zoom. 3pm - Advent Meditation and Carols, concludes our series of contemplative Advent services from Holy Trinity on Facebook and on Holy Trinity YouTube channel.
- Christmas Eve 3pm Crib Service for all the Family. The Christmas story told imaginatively and to suit everyone from the youngest in the house upwards! Facebook Premiere and on Holy Trinity YouTube channel shortly afterwards. 5pm - Christmas Eve Holy Communion streamed on Facebook and on Holy Trinity YouTube channel shortly afterwards.
- Christmas Day 10am All-Age Christmas Day Service. Facebook Premiere and on Holy Trinity YouTube channel.
- Sun 27 10am Service from Oxford Diocese [www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream)

Holy Trinity will be open from Saturday 19 Dec - Saturday 26 Dec everyday 9am-4pm (apart from Sunday 20 open from 12-4pm), for private prayer and to see the church decorated for Christmas.

Private Prayer, 9-4pm, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday 12-4pm. The church is open for you to use for your private prayers. Please follow the notices in church about social distancing.

### January 2021

As things are still uncertain please see the website for details of our services and events in January [www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org](http://www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org)

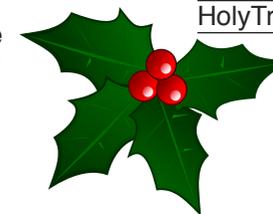
You can watch the services at any time, go to: Holy Trinity's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/HolyTrinitySGJ](http://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinitySGJ)

You do not need a Facebook account to watch the service

Holy Trinity YouTube channel can be found at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCBCQBbOIFypBNNotFpjzkizA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBCQBbOIFypBNNotFpjzkizA)



[www.facebook.com/HolyTrinitySGJ](http://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinitySGJ)



## Baptisms Weddings and Funerals

### Funeral

**12 November** - Luisa Samuel

### Contact us

**Holy Trinity website** [www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org](http://www.seergreenandjordanscofe.org)

**Cassa Messervy - Vicar** [cassamesservy@gmail.com](mailto:cassamesservy@gmail.com)  
or 01494 672496

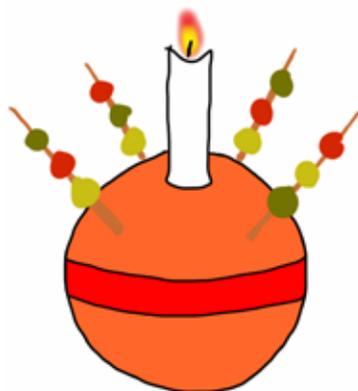
**Church Wardens and General Enquiries** Jane Spoerry 01494 677328  
Janine Dunnell 07525 322955

## DIY Christingle Service

**Sunday 6 December**, 10am on Facebook and YouTube

Our December All Age Christingle Service starts us thinking about Jesus coming to Earth as the Light of the world. As with all other events this Christmas, this will be a virtual event. Please email Janna, [jannaholder@talktalk.net](mailto:jannaholder@talktalk.net), to order your Christingle in a bag to accompany the service.

**Janna Holder**



## Charities for December

*Our charities for the rest of December, including Christmas, are The Children's Society, 'Padstones' and the Disasters Emergency Committee.*



### The Children's Society

The Children's Society believes that every young person deserves a good childhood and works especially with those threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect. Our annual fundraising for The Children's Society has traditionally been at our

Christingle Service at Holy Trinity. This can only happen virtually this year and we hope you can join us making your Christingle at home. Find out all the ways you can donate to this important cause on their website, [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)



### Padstones

'Padstones' – another term for 'Foundations' – is a local charity, now linked with the wider organisation Connection Support, but still based at Reedham House, 2 Britwell Road, Burnham SL1 8HG. It provides

accommodation and mentoring for single homeless young people 16–25. Full and part-time staff and volunteer key workers offer youngsters advice and support with life skills, literacy, numeracy and access to education and training, for up to 2 years. Follow-on accommodation may be arranged through the Wycombe Homeless Connection and similar local bodies. Offers of practical help, food or financial support are welcomed on 01628 660572.

### Disasters Emergency Committee

Whatever may be the latest tragedy hitting the headlines at Christmas in countries without the capacity to respond, the national Disasters

Emergency Committee (DEC) will be there, bringing together 14 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently, and enabling them rapidly to scale up their operations on the ground. For further information and ways to donate visit [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk)



**Rachel Gibson**



## Charity for January 2021



### Wycombe Women's Aid

Christmas is a time of great joy and celebration, but for many women and children the holidays and associated financial strain mean it is a time of added risk if they are living in a household with domestic abuse. For this reason, Wycombe Women's Aid has been chosen as the charity for our support in January.

Wycombe Women's Aid is a registered charity working in the Wycombe, South Bucks and Chiltern Districts of Buckinghamshire. It works with women and children experiencing or trying to escape domestic violence. It offers access to safe, temporary accommodation, support, information and advice to all women.

It enables women and children to live free from fear and to build safe and healthy lives. Your contribution will help to change lives.

Please give generously – donations directly benefit those being helped.

The charity offers:

**Refuge** - a confidential safe house where women and children can go if they are escaping domestic violence, with employee support.

**Children and Youth Support** - it has a dedicated children and youth service to meet the emotional, physical and educational needs of all the children and young people living in the refuge or in the local community.

**Outreach** - this service is free of charge, to help women living in the High Wycombe, South Bucks and Chiltern Districts of Buckinghamshire.

**Counselling** - this service is free, where the counsellor and client meet in a private, safe and confidential setting to explore the situation.

**Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy** - IDVAs provide crisis support and information for high or medium cases of domestic violence. They offer information and support on various subjects.

Helpline Number - 01494 461367.  
9.00am - 4.30pm Monday - Friday.

The National Domestic Violence Helpline - 0808 2000 247.

24 hour support and information service.

In an emergency telephone the Police - 999.

**Olwyn Davison Oakley**

## Village Events | News

### Gold Stars All Around



As we near the end of term, we would usually be writing about Christmas and our activities and fundraising events. However, at present, that feels a little hard to do. So, what can I tell you about this term?

The new starters are all doing exceptionally well considering the circumstances, with some being away from parents for the first time in a place that is new to them. Our older children too are settling back in well, some after many months off, again showing us how well they can adapt. Well done to all our children, you are super stars.

A well done to parents too, for many it is just as hard as for the children, if not more so. We hope that our virtual tour (which can be found on our website, [www.seergreenpreschool.co.uk](http://www.seergreenpreschool.co.uk)) has given you some comfort seeing the brilliant facilities your children access every day.

But ultimately, it is the amazing staff who have made this possible. The comfort, care, and attention to detail

every one of our staff gives, makes me so proud to be a part of the Pre-School. So a big well done and thank you to all the staff.

Finally, we do have a few things to look forward to - the nativity, which we hope will be broadcast by zoom, guess how many sweets are in the jar and the Christmas celebrations which always sprinkle delight across the term that - although different this year - will I'm sure be enjoyed by the children.

I would like to encourage everyone - parents and our wider community, to support us in our fundraising this year, which will be challenging. Please do use our easy fundraising and amazon smile links on the website. With all the online shopping we expect will happen this year, a small gesture by many could have a wonderful impact for our community.

Stay safe.

**Sarah Leslie** - Chairman, Seer Green Pre-School

## One Can update

One Can Trust are facing a monumental task for the next few months.

The perceived 'typical' client of the food bank is now changing dramatically as more people are made redundant. One Can is conscious of people's reticence because of shame, fear or sense of failure. They are determined to help everyone who needs help even short term. The referral process is straightforward and quick, so that families can benefit immediately.

If you know anyone who could do with a helping hand, then do get in touch with them. All details below. Alternatively, do chat in confidence to Cassa or Janna who are able to refer.

On average in October, One Can delivered food parcels for 452 people; 215 were children.

This represents a 101% increase over March's figures of 225 people per week.

I am still collecting and dropping off to the warehouse every Friday morning. The container is at the back of our house, 5 Coat Wicks. There is still a drop off point at Best One too.

The charity is not looking for Christmas items as the hampers have already been distributed, but if you can help with any of the items listed, it would be much appreciated as the crisis continues. They have some families who have food intolerances, so please consider donating some 'Free from' products if you possibly can.

Once again, Thank you Seer Green for your continued commitment. Little did I think in March that I would still be doing this in November.

Contact - [www.onecantrust.org.uk](http://www.onecantrust.org.uk)

Phone - 01494 512277

Email - [office@onecantrust.org.uk](mailto:office@onecantrust.org.uk)

**Janet Stewart**

**Tinned meat (Halal in particular)**  
*apparently available in Morrisons*

**Meat pies**

**Fresh fruit, veg and garlic**

*(esp. carrots / broccoli / onions and bananas)*

**Tinned veg** *(eg green beans, mushrooms)*

**Jam and spreads**

**Cooking oil** *(esp. olive oil)*

**Tinned puddings**  
*(eg. rice pudding, custard, sponge puddings)*

**Coconut milk**

**Vegetable stock cubes**

**Wheat and milk free soup**

**Washing up liquid and laundry detergent**

## Royal Horticultural Society Award

Many people in the village will be aware that Dennis Munden spent a lot of time during lockdown and beyond working on the churchyard. He has cleared overgrown sections and created wildlife havens around the trees by the church. The committee of the Seer Green Gardeners wanted to mark their appreciation for everything that he has done and continues to do. Therefore they decided to award him the Banksian medal. This is given by the RHS, and is normally awarded to the person who accumulates the most points in the Gardeners'

Autumn Show, but as there was no show this year due to COVID-19, the committee thought that Dennis was a very worthy recipient instead. Jane Smith, the new chair of the Gardeners' society, presented the medal alongside Rev. Cassa Messervy, and Dennis said that he was very moved to receive it. He has more plans for further improvements to the churchyard to be seen in the spring, I am sure that we will all enjoy the fruits of his labours.

**Jane Smith**



From right to left Dennis Munden, Jane Smith, Cassa Messervy.



SGKIDS & Seer Green Gardeners would like to introduce our Village Advent Calendar 2020.

Throughout December different houses and venues will create Christmas themed display for others to enjoy. A simple, creative, fun way to get ready for Christmas!

- Tues 1 Dec **Christmas Tree & Shops**
- Wed 2 **Orchard Road & Church Road**
- Thursday 3 **Woodpond Close & SG Baptist Church**
- Friday 4 **Drovers Way & Dell Lees**
- Saturday 5 **Godolphin Road & Pear Tree Close**
- Sunday 6 **Long Grove**
- Monday 7 **Old Long Grove**
- Tuesday 8 **SG Pre-school & SGCE School**
- Wed 9 **School Lane & Seer Mead**
- Thursday 10 **Barrards Way & Stable Lane**
- Friday 11 **Farmers Way & Coat Wicks**
- Saturday 12 **Chalfont Road 1\* & Manor Farm Way**
- Sunday 13 **The Jolly Cricketers & The Three Horseshoes**
- Monday 14 **Chalfont Road 2\* & Park Place**
- Tuesday 15 **Hearn's Meadow & Hearn's Close**
- Wed 16 **Manor Road & Manor Crescent**
- Thurs 17 **Chalfont Road 3\*, Princess Grove & New Barn Lane**
- Friday 18 **Gurnells Road & Bottom Lane**
- Saturday 19 **Highlands Road**
- Sunday 20 **Wynnswick Road**
- Monday 21 **Orchard Court & Raeside Close**
- Tuesday 22 **Howard Road**
- Wed 23 **Howard Crescent**
- Thursday 24 **Holy Trinity Church**

\*Chalfont Road 1 (Old Baptist Chapel - Old PO), Chalfont Road 2 - (Old PO – Park place), Chalfont Road 3 (Park Place – Perkin Elmer)

**A detailed list of houses and venues taking part will be available from 1st December.** For further details please contact [sgadventcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:sgadventcalendar@gmail.com) or Janna Holder on 07764490960.

## News from Jordans

Wow we have a lot to be thankful for. I am writing this 3 days into lock down and as with the start of the first lock down on the 23 March the weather is glorious. This time round rather than turning green the leaves are becoming a rich brown red - in some cases bright red as with the tree across the road from us. It looks as if a villager has poured a pot of red paint over the top of it. In previous years I have never stopped and marvelled at the wonders of nature right on our door step here in Jordans - perhaps too intent on driving out of the village to pursue some seemingly vital interest. What a privilege to be given time to stop and wonder. Community activities may be at a standstill but not community spirit and villagers are so benefitting from the simple things that our village can provide. A walk to the shop for a chat, a bike ride round the Green for the young new bicyclist - little traffic now - a saunter kicking fallen leaves in the woods - great for all ages - or simply a seat on the Green watching the world go by. How lucky we are to be oblivious of the roar of cars and buses in the towns, to be comfortable with our neighbours of any age and to enjoy new found friends living a stone's throw away. The great 'slow down' rather than the



great 'lock down' and how therapeutic must that be for us all. Perhaps this is something we have striven for over years and, although none of us like being told what to do, let us embrace it and appreciate that although a slower pace of life is what many of us wanted we would never have achieved it by ourselves. Lock down can be a 'blessing' and not an 'order' if we allow it to be.

**Ali Cork**



## Seer Green Gardeners

The new wildflower display at the junction of Longbottom and Bottom Lane put a smile on the faces of many villagers over the summer and it was great for the pollinators too! However, by October some monster burdock plants were taking over so a few volunteers kindly cleared the area in the hope that next year's display will be even better. A big "thank you" to all those who helped with this.

Due to COVID-19 we are currently unsure which village events will be possible next year but we are discussing lots of alternative ideas to encourage us all to connect with the wonderful world of horticulture in 2021.

Information and updates are on the website: [www.seergreengardeners.org.uk](http://www.seergreengardeners.org.uk)

### Things to plant in December

- Garlic can still be planted out in December.
- Aquadulce broad beans can also be planted for a juicy spring harvest.
- Onion and shallot sets can be planted from now until mid-March.

### Winter tips for houseplants

- Some indoor plants need less water over the winter.
- Succulents only need watering every 3 weeks.

- You can stop watering cacti for a couple of months (as long as they have had a good water first).
- With fewer daylight hours some plants could be moved to a brighter spot.
- Don't let your plants get too hot or too cold, keep them away from draughty windows and extreme heat from central heating.
- Inspect your indoor plants for pests such as aphids, thrips, mealybugs and scale insects.
- Keep leaves free from dust, give them a wipe over with a damp cloth.

### Catherine Tilley



Photo: Claire Nightingale

## Recycling festive gift wrap

Christmas is coming with lots of beautifully wrapped gifts ... but how to handle the waste afterwards, and are there natural alternatives?

According to Bucks County Council, "Not all wrapping paper can be recycled or composted. Some wrapping paper contains metal content plus there is the issue of sticky tape, glitter and foil back paper. If it is just paper then it can be recycled. Wrapping paper made out of paper will be white in the middle when torn." Bucks CC told me verbally that this also applies to gift tissue - as long as it's not sparkly, it can be recycled.

Alternatives to the high street shops include FSC certified, recyclable paper from the RSPB, [www.shopping.rspb.org.uk/christmas-gift-wrap](http://www.shopping.rspb.org.uk/christmas-gift-wrap) Traidcraft.co.uk also has ethically made paper but its gold trim may not meet Bucks CC's requirements. Other options include decorating brown paper with water-based markers or stamps, or reusing newspaper, which looks smart if done well.

Remember to tear off sellotape before recycling; paper tape (despite touted biodegradability) may not be recyclable so be safe, remove it ... or avoid the hassle, wrap without using adhesives.



Standard gift ribbon is made from plastic; natural alternatives include cotton, jute, hemp or wool string which can be home composted. A sprig of holly or pine tucked into the bow adds a special touch. Woven cloth ribbon usually contains polyester; save it for reuse next year as it won't compost.

Gift bags, tags and cards follow the same principles: plain paper or card can be recycled but shiny material, adhesives and non-organic ties must be removed and put in general waste.

An increasingly popular trend is wrapping gifts in fabric or scarves, thus avoiding adhesives or ribbon; these can be reused next year, put into textile recycling containers or donated to charity shops as appropriate. Upscale options include [www.fabricwrappingco.com/](http://www.fabricwrappingco.com/), [www.happywrap.co.uk](http://www.happywrap.co.uk) and more.

### Nora Bennett

## Books for Christmas

*I thought I'd give a few ideas for presents for the younger members of the family. What could be better than a book? Once the plastic and cardboard have been discarded, a book will still be there to return to.*



### **The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse – Charlie Mackesey**

This beautiful book is the perfect Christmas gift for any age (even adults). A book of hope for uncertain times.

Conversations between these 4 unlikely friends have been shared online, printed and used in classrooms and hospital wards as their important life lessons are told simply with beautiful illustrations. Love, friendship and kindness are the key messages which surely is what the world needs now more than ever.

A truly beautiful book which encapsulates the spirit of Christmas for us all.

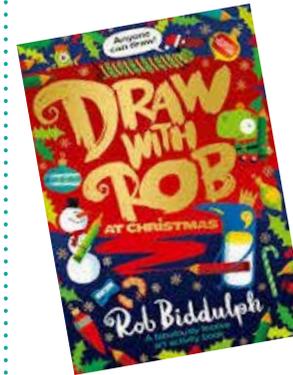
### **The Boy at the back of the class – Onjali Rauf**

This multi prize winning novel is suitable for 8-12 year olds.

The author was inspired to write this after working in refugee camps in France. She considered how it would be to arrive in a new country and be so different.

This fast moving, humorous adventure story, centres on the importance of friendship and encourages children not to fear those who are different.

9 year old Ahmet arrives at school confusing the others in his class as he doesn't smile, speak or like sherbet lemons! When it's discovered that he's



a refugee from a country going through a real war, a group of friends want to help him and come up with a cunning plan.....

### **Draw with Rob & Draw with Rob at Christmas – Rob Biddulph - recommended age 3+**

Which child doesn't like to draw?

Rob Biddulph has put an instructional video on social media every day during lockdown #DrawWithRob.

Many families with children engaged with it and learned how to create wonderful characters. These activity books continue the good work and teach budding artists how to draw.

Something to keep young people busy during what could be a very quiet Christmas.

Gerrards Cross Bookshop is open (behind closed doors). They are taking telephone and email orders and can deliver locally. Contact the shop on 01753 885429 or email [info@gxbookshop.co.uk](mailto:info@gxbookshop.co.uk)

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## Bus service

Carousel's route 104 now provides an hourly service Monday to Friday from Seer Green to Beaconsfield (Maxwell Rd) and on to High Wycombe. The service runs from 07.09 am till 20.03 (in the middle of the day it is 46 minutes past each hour). There is a similar service on Saturdays (midday times 06 past the hour). Return times typically give one just over an hour (or more) in Beaconsfield.



The Red Eagle route 380 provides one service, on Tuesdays and Fridays only, from Jordans to Beaconsfield (Waitrose) and on to Loudwater (Tesco superstore) leaving Jordans at 10.10. The return bus allows 1 hour and 40 minutes in Beaconsfield (only 15 mins at Loudwater).

Carousel does provide hourly services for most of the day between Beaconsfield and Amersham (route 103) and between Chalfont St Giles and Amersham (route 105) but in neither case are there convenient connections with our 104 service. The best thing would be to take the 104 bus into Beaconsfield (Maxwell Rd) and wait there, around half an hour, for the Amersham bus (which goes on to Rickmansworth and Watford).

**Geoffrey Brand**

## Seer Green Village Christmas tree

On Tuesday **December 1** we will be illuminating our Village Christmas Tree (outside the shops) and it will then remain lit every evening through the festive season. The 1 December will also be the date of the launch of the Village Advent Calendar. Due to the national lockdown and COVID-19 restrictions sadly there will be no gathering or event on 1 December, but instead we will live stream a

countdown and the lights switch on via our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/seergreenadventcalendar](https://www.facebook.com/seergreenadventcalendar). You do not need to have a Facebook book account to watch it.

We hope that the lights and festive displays around the village will bring some joy and cheer this Christmas.

**Jane Smith and Janna Holder**

## Iain Rennie Light up a Life Service

The service will include many of the familiar parts of a Light up a Life service including a reading, a solo singer, a poem, a moment for reflection along with the opportunity to light a candle and watch the lights being switched on our Christmas tree.

The virtual service will begin at 5pm on **Sunday 13 December**, and people will be able to access the video at [www.renniegrove.org/lual](http://www.renniegrove.org/lual) on the day.

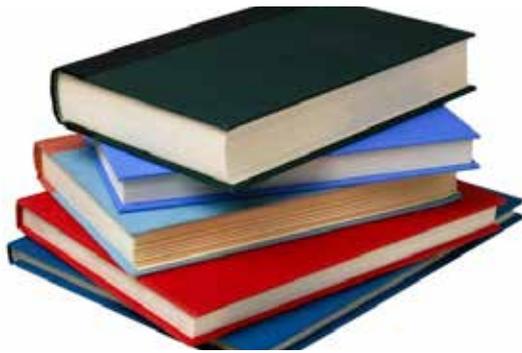
**Chad Greggor**



## An opportunity for a new editor .....

I am so grateful to Andrew Westlake who has edited this magazine from Worcestershire but now he needs to hang up his editing pen and it would be great to find someone to take his place. You need to enjoy being involved in village life, have basic computer skills and have (we reckon) about 7 hours spare 5 months a year as there are 10 editions of the magazine and we share the editing. For more details email [editorseergreen@gmail.com](mailto:editorseergreen@gmail.com) or ring Sue Puttergill 01494 670216.

**Sue Puttergill**



## This Christmas, 'Give A Gift' to Seer Green CE School

The much-loved Christmas Cracker Fair is usually Seer Green CE School's biggest annual fundraiser. But sadly this year, due to Covid-19, it won't be able to go ahead.

So, the village school's PTA is asking people to consider donating the money they would have spent at the fair, to its 'Give A Gift' campaign instead.

Visit the website below, and you can purchase a 'gift' from the school's Christmas Wishlist - a selection of much-needed 'extras' ranging from educational puzzles and games for the Reception Year, through to ICT supplies for Year 6 - that will go towards really enhancing the children's learning experiences.

[www.givey.com/seergreenschoolparentteacherassociation](http://www.givey.com/seergreenschoolparentteacherassociation)

The hope is that the campaign can raise enough money to make up some of huge shortfall in the school's fundraising pot this year (over £5,000 is usually raised by the Christmas Cracker Fair alone) - so any support you can give will be hugely appreciated. Thank you!



### And now for some good news ...

If, like me, you love the thought of waking up to the newspaper or magazine of your choice on your doormat first thing every morning, NewsTeam Group is a nationwide business that delivers publications to your door for a minimal charge.

They are extremely reliable and continued their service throughout the stresses and strains of the first lockdown when it was particularly appreciated.

The service is friendly and easy to access, you can start and stop delivery whenever you like, and they

also accommodate the subscription schemes of the big newspaper groups.

If you still enjoy and value professional journalism in printed form, or if you know of someone who feels isolated and would appreciate the regular treat of a newspaper or magazine delivery, you can find out more from [www.newteamgroup.co.uk](http://www.newteamgroup.co.uk) or by calling them on 01782 358998.

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## Tweet of the Month: 'Nightly Sings the Staring Owl'

As autumn nights draw in and thoughts turn to Christmas ghost stories, the Tawny Owl provides the perfect sound-track. Also known as the 'brown owl', *Strix aluco* is found in wooded areas across mainland GB, though it's absent from Ireland.

Hunting nocturnally from a tree branch perch, its acute hearing helps it capture mice, voles, birds, insects, fish, worms, rabbits - and squirrels! Who can forget the irascible Old Mr Brown in Beatrix Potter's Tale of Squirrel Nutkin, who (spoiler alert) bites off Nutkin's tail.

Young tawnies are fed by their parents for several months after leaving the nest, as in the picture book Owl Babies, but come autumn they must disperse to seek their own territories.

'Nightly sings the staring owl, to-whit, to-who,' according to Shakespeare; but it's really two separate sounds: 'to-wit' (or 'kewick') and the male's long, wavering 'too-hoo-ooo-ooo', often delivered as he defends his patch from this year's queuing youngsters.



It's not unusual to hear tawnies in and around Seer Green and Jordans, but twice recently I spotted them. About an hour after sunset, in mid October, harsh 'kewick' calls from a tree in Green Meadow were followed by a shadow floating high across School Road and a few more calls from the woods near the war memorial.

A week later, in the lane by Hall Place, I was startled by a loud 'too-hoo-ooo-ooo', repeated several times from an ash tree. In the light of the waxing moon, a slight bulge in one of the branches resolved into an owl with outstretched wings, silently vanishing over the rooftops.

The British Trust for Ornithology estimates the UK has 50,000 nesting pairs, but numbers are dropping and tawnies are now Amber Listed. For more information including occasional 'citizen science' projects see: [www.bto.org/our-science/projects/project-owl/learn-about-owls/tawny-owl](http://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/project-owl/learn-about-owls/tawny-owl).

Calls and songs: [www.xeno-canto.org/species/Strix-aluco](http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Strix-aluco)

Details of the tawny's life cycle: [www.birdwatching.co.uk/birdspecies/2019/10/28/tawny-owl](http://www.birdwatching.co.uk/birdspecies/2019/10/28/tawny-owl)

**Nora Bennett**

## Father Christmas



Jordans and District Rotary Club are very pleased to let you know that Father Christmas WILL be visiting Seer Green and Jordans in his sleigh this year on **Monday 21, Tuesday 22** and **Wednesday 23 December**, 5.30 - 8pm. We will not be knocking

on your door but shall have some collecting buckets on the sleigh should anybody wish to donate to local charities. The actual route will be determined nearer the time, and be advertised to inform everybody, via posters and messages on the community WhatsApp group.

Thank you.

**Jenny Owen**



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Suggested minimum donation for collection £10, but feel free to donate more.

Funds going to support Seer Green Explorer Scouts.

## Free English and maths courses from Buckinghamshire Adult Learning

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Buckinghamshire Adult Learning offers a free and confidential pre-course assessment to all learners before they begin. This ensures that each learner is learning at the correct level.

Contact Buckinghamshire Adult Learning via the website at [www.adultlearningbc.ac.uk/english-maths](http://www.adultlearningbc.ac.uk/english-maths)

Alternatively, email [albs@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:albs@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01296 674463

## And FINALLY .....

*Extracts from the Bible – as written by children.*

*The following 25 statements about the Bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in.*

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built and ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.
5. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.
7. Moses led the jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
8. The egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.
9. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
10. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
11. Moses died before he ever reached canada then Joshua led the hebrews in the battle of geritol.
12. The greatest miricle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
13. David was a hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
14. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
15. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the magna carta.
16. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.
17. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
18. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
19. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others

before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.

- 20. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance
- 21. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 disciples.
- 22. The epistles were the wives of the apostles.

- 23. One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taxman
- 24. St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- 25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.



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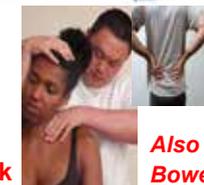
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