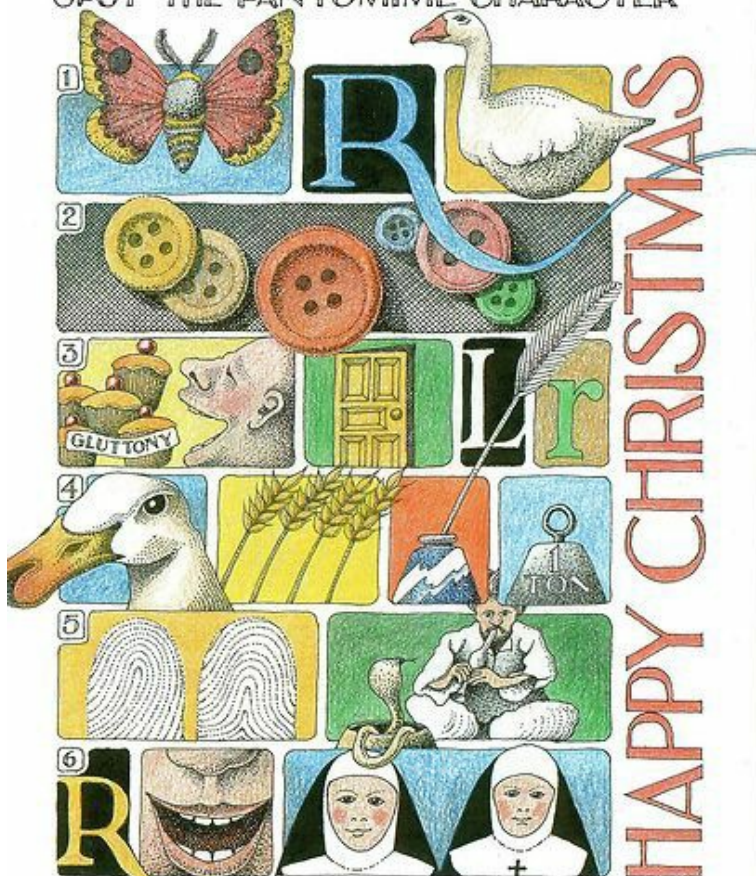


COURIER

Volume 28 No 10

Dec/ Jan
2021/22

SPOT THE PANTOMIME CHARACTER



December 2021

THE COURIER

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The COURIER is the Magazine of the Parishes of Collingbourne Ducis, Everleigh and Collingbourne Kingston. Items for publication are most welcome but may have to be edited if space, etc, demands. All items published solely express the views of their author and are copyright of the COURIER unless otherwise stated. Whilst every care has been taken, no responsibility can be accepted for statements made by the advertisers.

The deadline for February copy is 6.30 pm on 18th January 2021.

The Collingbournes and Everleigh Magazine Association

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Collingbournes and Everleigh Magazine Association, which produces the Courier, will take place on Friday 28th January 2022 at 8pm in Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall. All residents of the villages of Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston and Everleigh over the age of sixteen may attend and vote. The meeting will receive reports on the Courier's activities during 2021, consider any motions put forward and elect the Committee, Officers and Editor for 2022.

All motions should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Sandra Fisher, Staddlestones, Aughton, Collingbourne Kingston, by 7th January 2022. Nominations for Officers and the Committee may be submitted in advance, but will also be accepted from the floor.

If you can possibly come along please do. It is your chance to voice an opinion on your magazine.

Collingbourne Ducis Parish Council

Paul Hartley, Chairman, writes:

On what is my first Courier article as Chair of Collingbourne Ducis Parish Council, I must start by paying tribute to Pete Knowlson who stepped down as Chairman last month. Pete had led the Parish Council for over 4 years. During this period his leadership has guided the Parish Council through the unprecedented challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has caused, but also ensured the Parish Council has delivered positive change and key projects. I am delighted that Pete has elected to stay in the Parish Council as a Councillor - I will, no doubt, lean heavily on him and the rest of the team in my attempts to emulate his fine work.

Currently, the Parish Council continues to focus its efforts on securing funding and delivery of a number of upcoming projects. These include the installation of a new bus shelter on the Everleigh Road Junction and engagement with Wiltshire Council on road safety issues such as



potential opportunities to re-profile the round-about by The Tipple Inn and a request for a 'Metro Count' on Ludgershall Road to assess traffic speed issues. We are also seeking to install some Speed Indicator Devices to help deter speeding through the village, the final placing of these is to be determined by the data collected from the Village Speed-watch.

We do still have a couple of vacancies on the Parish Council, so if you feel strongly about any of the points above or wish to give a small amount of your time for the benefit of the village more generally, do please contact the Parish Clerk (parishclerk@collingbourne ducis.com) or alternatively come and join our next meeting, scheduled for Thursday 6th January 2022.

And finally, on behalf of the Parish Council, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we do hope we can help you kick start your Christmas Season by joining us at the Collingbourne Ducis Christmas Brunch on Sunday 12th December from 9am until 12 noon at the Village Hall.

Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall Draw

Jane Crook (CD 850436) announces the winners:

The winners in the November Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall draw were :

£50 V.Gordon 40

£25 R.Colquhous 139

£10 V.Gordon 46

£5 L.MacDonald 153

The View from Everleigh

Denis Bottomley (CD 852731) writes:

We have made further progress on our Everleigh Enhancement project. Planting has taken place in the flower bed in Everleigh Centre opposite the park bench. A new all-weather bench has arrived, to be sited by the rear gate of the village playground with views of Sidbury Hill and Baden's Clump. We also



plan to position a Christmas tree in Everleigh Centre in early December.

A village litter pick took place on Saturday 23rd October. Many thanks go to the 16 volunteers who took part and collected 15 bags of rubbish. Everleigh is certainly looking a lot cleaner as a result.



Our final event of the year, a Christmas Carol Service, will take place at St Peter's Church on Saturday 11th December at 5pm. This is a good opportunity for the village to get together at this festive time of the year, to hear the Christmas story and to sing traditional carols. We will also be laying on mulled wine and mince pies after the Service. We look forward to seeing you there.

Forestry harvesting work within the MoD Training Estate in the Everleigh area started on Monday 8th November and will continue until Friday 28th January 2022 (inclusive and including weekends). The work is necessary to remove dead and dying ash trees infected with the Ash Dieback disease and to thin some of the woodland. Members of the public are requested to:

- Observe and adhere to the warning signs and barriers that will be installed
- Keep to the public Rights of Way
- Keep dogs on a lead and supervise children in the vicinity of harvesting areas

An updated Village Emergency plan was circulated to all residents in early October. This plan was implemented on Sunday 31st October when a team of 4 volunteers deployed to clear trees from the A342 as a result of high winds. Many thanks go to this team, comprising 2 parish councillor co-ordinators (Kim Wheeler-Mallows and Denis Bottomley) and 2 residents (Steve Biggs and Toby Stoneham). It was good to see the plan in action.

Waste collection dates will not change over the Christmas and New Year period, as crews will be working as normal on Bank Holidays. Garden waste collections will stop for two weeks over this period; the last collections will take place on Friday 24th December and they will restart on Monday 10th January 2022. Residents can check their waste, recycling and garden waste collection online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/WasteCollectionDays Revised Household Recycling Centre (HRC) timings for the Christmas/New Year period are at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres.

COVID-19 continues to feature prominently in the headlines, with the situation constantly under review. Village Area Co-ordinators remain in place and alert to the needs of parishioners.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7 pm at the Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The minutes of our last meeting are available on village noticeboards and the Everleigh web site at www.everleigh.org Finally, we would like to wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

1st Collingbourne Kingston Brownies

Natalie, Brown Owl 1st Collingbourne Kingston Brownies, writes:

Over this last month the Brownies have been very busy with lots of things going on, meeting nights and also in the community.



The Brownies have been doing detective work in code breaking which they were very good at. Some cooking took place in creating Muffins in a Mug, these went down very well with most of them going home and trying it out there.

Halloween was upon us and everyone came in their fancy dress costumes ready for a fun filled night of activities. There was green slime with eyes in where they had to pick them out only using little fingers, it was messy but great fun. Apple bobbing was left to last so as not to

OUR LINK COORDINATOR'S NUMBER IS CD 850807

Please try to give them at least 48 hours' notice to find a volunteer

mess up their fantastic faces. Everyone enjoyed the Halloween Ghoul Food.

November has us thinking about Remembrance and all those who have fallen in the wars. Poppies were made to wear and thoughtful poems were created. The Brownies created beautifully decorated memory jars so that they could capture all those special, proud and meaningful moments.

The Brownies have also been very creative in doing coloured paper/card Diwali Candles to keep or give to someone they love. This last week we have been thinking of our wildlife and making bird feeders from plastic bottles. These were taken home so that they could enjoy what would come and feed from them.

Christmas is just around the corner so we will be busy bees with getting ready for that. The Brownies used to enjoy the Christmas Tree Festival and meeting all the residents at West Farm Residential home and having a good sing song with them.

Here's to a fantastic Christmas and wishing you a year fully loaded with happiness.

1st Collingbourne Scout Group

Natalie Williams, Group Scout Leader – 1st Collingbourne Scout Group, writes:



Volunteering for scouting is easier than you think. Scouting offers a range of flexibility for adult volunteering opportunities, which help provide adventure and challenges for young people.

We are looking for leaders, managers, executive members and more. Whatever your skills, experience and interests, we can find a role for you.

With full support and training, you can experience the fun, friendship and adventure of scouting for yourself, all on a flexible basis. You will be provided with full training and support to do this.

For more information and get involved at 1st Collingbourne Scout Group please contact us to find out more.

Natalie Williams

Group Scout Leader – 1st Collingbourne Scout Group

Email:natalie.williams@wiltshirescout.org.uk/collingbourne7@yahoo.com

Christmas Bingo - Fun for All

Natalie Williams writes:

The Brownies would like to invite everyone to come along to the Christmas Bingo being held on 7th December at the Kingston Village Hall with Doors opening at 7.30 pm. There will be many prizes, a raffle and refreshments. Don't forget to bring your friends to come and join in with the fun.

Collingbourne Kingston Women's Institute Report November 2021

Sandra Fisher (CD 850363) writes:

At the meeting on 11th November the President, Wendy Brown, welcomed members and visitors. Apologies were given, the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting were signed off and forthcoming events were discussed, including the arrangements for the Christmas party. Members were told that the committee would arrange a snow scene on a table ready to receive suitably seasonal items made by them. The programme setting out the tea rota etc, would be ready for distribution by the beginning of 2022. The speaker for the evening, Mr Ian Pugh, was introduced and talked about the History of the Toast, which seems to have begun in its present form in Regency Bath, although bread, among other things, has been used to clarify wine since Roman times. He talked about the duties of the Toast Master and the training which is involved. He also dressed in his formal clothes and brought some props, such as wine glasses, to illustrate his talk. He was warmly thanked by Maz.



Our Community Support Officers can be contacted on 101

The evening closed with delicious refreshments and the drawing of the raffle.

Next meeting: 9th December 2021. Christmas Party.

Burbage & District Video & Camera Club (BDVCC)

Sonny Hamid writes:

Our October session was dedicated to exhibiting and inviting critique on our images.

Some members displayed prints while others brought their images on a USB stick and projected their images on a large screen. There was no restriction on the type of subjects to display and for this reason each member presented a set of their images based on a specific genre of subjects, e.g. portraiture, landscape, etc while others had images which were based on a varied selection of subjects.

For our next session in November, we are planning to demonstrate the art of product photography. More details will be provided just before the session.

We are always on the lookout for ideas for our hobby and if you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to forward this to us.

If you're thinking about taking up photography, improving your photos and skills, purchasing new equipment or dusting off old, please feel free to contact us for advice, encouragement and a friendly welcome, no matter what your background or ability. Please contact Sonny on **01672 811 933** or Mike on **01672 810 574** for more details and any donations.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 20th January, 2022 commencing @ 19:30 hours in the Royal British Legion Hall in Burbage. The Club welcomes new members and any donations and gifts of unwanted photographic items. So, if you would like to try your hand at this engaging hobby or have some equipment you are not using, please feel free to call me, Sonny, on **01672 811 933**.



Community Speedwatch (CSW)

Team Leaders, Tim Keighley (CK), and Paul Harley, (CD), write:



Kingston's Speedwatch team has now been in operation for over 4 years, and we are pleased that the Collingbourne Ducis Speedwatch team is now up and running, and indeed had their first duty week recently. Currently both teams go out on the roadside for a week every month. Volunteers give up their time to support the roadside watches. Each watch lasts an hour. Team members support as much as they are able. We are always looking for more team members, if you have an hour a month to spare, (or more), during daylight hours, please do contact your respective team leader - full training is given. Contact details at the end of this article.

The information from individual vehicles is recorded and sent to the Police, who then send letters to the miscreants. Vehicles caught travelling at 45 mph and over, should receive a visit from the Police. Initial impressions from CD's first month on task have been really positive. Both in terms of the warm response and comments from residents, but also the deterrence effect the Speedwatch team has when on task, the traffic does noticeably slow. It is a shame we can be on the roadside 24/7!

We know that as the number of team members increase, the number of watches increases, and the bigger the impact we have on slowing vehicles down. Our presence does deter speeding.

Not only were the CK team instrumental in helping the CD team gain experience prior to our formation, but by sharing the Speedwatch equipment between both, it ensures there is a Speedwatch presence on our section of the A338 all year round. Both teams are working closely together, we hope to the detriment of speeding vehicles!

We would like our teams to continue to grow - the more members we have, the less burdensome the task and the more visibility we have. If anyone from CD, CK or surrounding area, has an hour a month (or more), please get in touch with Paul Hartley,

CD, paulsahartley@hotmail.com or Tim Keighley, CK,
timkeighley@tiscali.co.uk

Finally, we wish you all a VERY HAPPY and SLOW CHRISTMAS!

The Harmonium Singers are back this Christmas

Veronica Bacon (01264 771285) writes:



After an enforced break last year, the popular Christmas carol concert from The Harmonium Singers is back in style, as the choir not only celebrates a return to singing but also its 50th Anniversary. Founded in 1971 to sing carols in the streets of Andover with an antique portable harmonium, the choir has developed over the years into a full chamber choir, often giving concerts in St Mary's Church in Andover. This year's Christmas concert, entitled 'In the bleak midwinter' is once again set to raise the roof at St Mary's and the much-anticipated event is always an attractive mix of old and new carol arrangements, along with traditional favourites for all to sing.

This year sees the choir's new musical director, Andrew Wyndham, take centre stage as Bruce Randall becomes Chair after leading the group for many years. For those with concerns about Covid, Bruce has reassurance: 'We are very conscious that some people may still feel nervous about attending a live concert, but we will take extra steps with social distancing to keep everyone safe. To that end we are asking people to book their tickets in advance so that we can arrange group seating as required, avoiding queues and congested areas. Also there will be no interval, but the new individual seats in St Mary's are very comfortable and more spaced-out following the major re-ordering of the Church in recent months.'

Tickets are £10 from The Lights, Newbury Building Society and choir members, with no charge for under-14s. Proceeds will go to Andover Crisis & Support Centre, which provides help and support for women, men and children who have been affected by domestic violence and

abuse. The concert takes place at St Mary's Church, Andover on Saturday 18th December at the earlier-than-usual time of 7.00 pm.

Further information:

Veronica Bacon, 01264 771285

www.harmoniumsingers.org.uk

A Couple of Spots of Art

David Puttock, Courier chairman. writes:

Two local museums are currently hosting exhibitions of British artists which are both well worth a visit.

Salisbury Museum's 'Cutting it Fine: The Art of the British Wood engraver' runs until 16th Jan with over one hundred and twenty prints from a private collection, including works by Paul Nash, Gwen Raverat, Eric Ravilious and the absolutely outstanding John Nash.

The Museum is in the Cathedral Close.

At least as good, if not better, is Devizes Museum's 'Eric Ravilious Downland Man'. Amongst the watercolours on display are 'Long Man of Wilmington' and 'The Causeway', a glorious view of Hippenscombe Bottom. It's worth going just to see these two in the flesh.

Runs until the 30th of Jan.

Park anywhere, the Museum is well sign posted and can't be far.

Collingbourne Store Identity Crisis

A frustrated Collingbourne Ducis resident (Name of contributor supplied to Courier) writes:

It's not often I put pen to paper, as it isn't particularly one of my forte's but as a resident of Collingbourne Ducis I feel that many of us in this lovely community are being subjected to a misjustice that has been allowed to carry on for far too long!

I have never known a village shop to be so lacklustre and poorly run in my life. This has become even more apparent in the last eighteen months. Where so many other small independent stores have bent over backwards to help keep their community stocked with bread,

milk, eggs and all the other essentials that keep them a pivotal hub to any village, but our Collingbourne Store seems to have suffered an identity crisis.

Smaller fridges and low stock content, combined with extortionate pricing, is putting our more vulnerable neighbours at risk whilst creating real frustration for villagers and commuters alike.

The other day I needed bread. It was 1.30 pm in the afternoon and I was told by a staff member that the store owner was at the 'Cash and Carry,' and will most likely bring some bread back with him. Likely being the operative word here, because even the staff don't have a clue of what supplies are coming in and have no way of doing a full stock itinerary.

It is no secret that our store in recent years has been the butt of many a joke, but it just isn't funny anymore. We have many elderly residents living in our village, who cannot just jump in the car and drive to Tesco's or Lidl in Tidworth, they rely on the village shop for necessities. Any business owner who takes on this role must have a sense of community and supporting those within it.

This article isn't meant to be a witch hunt, but more of a raising of awareness to those connected to the shop, and a voice for those that have remained silent (like myself), who are now saying 'enough is enough.'

Hearing Loops

Sandra Fisher (01264 850363) writes:

A Thank You.

To the members of St Mary's PCC and to the CK Village Hall Committee a thank you for having Hearing Loops installed into the Church and Village Hall. It makes a huge difference to people like me, who wear a hearing aid, to clearly hear what is being said rather than picking up a series of mumbles. Isn't technology wonderful?

Things I have found in the garden

Digger (allotment number provided)

When I mentioned shoddy last month it made me think of hoddy-ddoddy, an old name for the snail – and I've found lots of those in the garden.



I found the hoddy-doddy (or hodman-dod) in Alfred Watkins' recent book 'The Old Straight Track' (Methuen & Co, 1925) in which he puts forward, at some length, his theory of the ley line, or the old straight track (of which he says, incidentally, that one runs along the Fairmile). As a travelling representative of the family brewery he spent his time riding round Shropshire and Herefordshire seeing things that weren't there. One evening, after a tiring and emotional day selling beer, while resting on a hilltop he 'became aware of a network of lines, standing out like glowing wires all over the surface of the country'. Thus the ley line was born.

Obviously, Alfred was about as daft as one can safely be without risking confinement and his book was not well-received, being harshly reviewed in local circles, which could not abide a straight line of any sort:

'Watkins is a dodderer of the first water. His book is devoid of common sense and lacks sexual intrigue. He juxtaposes familiar concepts to alienate and annoy the reader, and just exposes himself, to ridicule. He's owed me half a crown for two years come Lammastide' *Clun Book Review*

'It was the cheapest book in the shop' *Knobley and Weobley Post* *

Snails can be found in odd places, like fly-tipped tyres and the margins of Middlevil manuscripts as little doodles, or marginalia if you prefer. The snails are nearly always depicted as battling or overcoming knights in armour, but never submitting. Along with rabbits hunting dogs (and skinning humans)



these snails inhabit a topsy-turvy world, the Wonderland of Alice, which is where we find the sublime 'Mock Turtle's Song':

“ 'Will you walk a little faster?' said a whiting to a snail/ 'There's a porpoise close behind us and he's treading on my tail' ”

(If Shakespeare had written that it would have been a porpentine, ruining everything).

This song is the story of a timorous, but good, little British snail who, understandably, doesn't want to be thrown into the sea by the lobsters and, thus, end up closer to France. In a recent poll concerning the conduct of the snail, 51% of Britons said the snail was right.



A charming woodcut of a snail is the seal of Virginia and Leonard Woolf's Hogarth Press. Their first publication, 'Two Stories' by V & L, contains Virginia's story 'The Mark on the Wall' in which she muses '... the rapidity of life, the perpetual waste and repair'. Why the snail seal?

Perhaps she was saying that slow, like the pace of the snail, is beautiful... slower might be kinder to ourselves and others. And a snail may have made the mark on the wall.

'A poor life this, if, full of care/We have no time to stand and stare'

W.H. Davies, 'Leisure' 1911

'The day you stop racing is the day you win the race' Bob Marley.

The snail was called stomach foot, or gastropod, by the Latins because I suppose they thought it walked as if it had its stomach in its foot, like Kidney Foot in a Damon Runyon story, only with him it was a kidney.

Claudius Galen, chief physician of the Roman army and one of the Uncles of modern medicine, was the first person to state that an army marches on its stomach. Whether he thought legionaries were snails I don't know, but he was Greek and something may have got lost in translation.

Stomach foot has the nearly supernatural ability to make Shakespeare shine:

'Or, as the snail, whose tender horns being hit
Shrinks backward in his shelly cave with pain
And there, all smother'd up, in shade doth sit,
Long after fearing to creep forth again' 'Venus and Adonis'
'The whining schoolboy, with his satchel and shivering morning face,
creeping like snail/
Unwillingly to school' 'As You Like It' Act 2, scene 1

The only good recent snail song is The Fall's 5m 10s masterpiece from the wonderful and frightening mind of Mark E. Smith, 'Mollusc in Tyrol' (not suitable for older or younger listeners):
'I'm a mollusc raw/The mollusc, to get to white limpets/It slithered the roads/ To the Tyrol/To the Tyrol'. Me too, brother.

*Despite this setback he went on to achieve international success writing sensational novels, under the nom de plume Vicky Busom. My favourites are 'On the Long Mynd with a skull in each hand', 'Shropshire after dark' (French title, 'Cette Saloperie de ma cherie'), and 'The evil puddle of Clun' (first published as 'The ice monster from hell, Melteth')

Savernake Team Letter

Rev Michael McHugh, Savernake Team Rector, writes:

Dear Reader,



This time last year we were worried about the Christmas Services that eventually never happened.

This year we are facing the uncertainty, but with more hope and planning for a full calendar, investing life into our churches.

I have been very struck by my work with the various schools in our area. Each has a strapline, a motto, which has caused me to ponder the many ways in which they seek to create great things out of small people. Isn't this the very nub of the Christmas message? Out of a small child, born in difficult circumstances and soon to become a refugee, a life changing revelation was made. The theme has recurred in our re-

flections upon our parishes, the single person who takes ownership of an aspect of life and becomes the seed from which our communities grow. It is at the heart of so many of the parables told by Jesus and is at the heart of his narrative.

The point is that each little seed of growth is different, reflecting how unique and special each person is. Like the schools' strivings to provide roots for a child to grow creatively our communities grow from simple initiatives.

This Christmas will see churches once more the physical heart of the community. We will not be foolish in this endeavour. If necessary, we will make hard decisions like we made last year.

Hopefully, this Christmas we will be able to do simple things like see loved ones. The ability to sing together, be together and grow together will address some of the scars of the last two years. It will not bring back the people we have lost, but it will provide the soil in which the seeds of love and fellowship can grow afresh.

With luck, the Grinch of coronavirus will make way for the child in the stable.

As we approach this Christmas, on behalf of all who keep our churches open and alive, I wish you a very joy filled season. Do join us and lend your voices to our singing,

Every Blessing, Michael

St. Andrew's Church, Collingbourne Ducis

Churchwarden Tish Leigh (850867) writes:

The countdown to Christmas is really underway now. In the Christian church Advent is a time of longing, hoping, waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.



On Thursday 11th November a Remembrance Service was held at the War Memorial with the school. Two children read the names of the men from Everleigh and the Collingbournes, who gave their lives

during both World Wars. The children's quiet, respectful behaviour during the two minute silence was as impressive as ever.

On Sunday 28th November the 11 am service of Holy Communion will be led by Bishop Andrew, the Bishop of Ramsbury. As well as being the first Sunday of Advent this will also be a 'patronal' service, remembering Saint Andrew, the saint after which our church is named. Starting on Monday 29th November and for the following two Mondays, Collingbourne Primary school will be having their Advent services in church starting at 2.15pm. You would be welcome to join us for these services.

On Thursday 16th December, the Phoenix Brass band will provide music for 'Brass and Carols' at the Tipple Inn, starting at 7.30 pm. Come along and begin your Christmas by singing some favourite carols and enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies. We will be outside, so wrap up warm!

If you would like to join in the preparations for Christmas in the church, please join us on Saturday 11th December from 10 am – 12 noon, when we will be decorating the church with greenery and candles and also decorating our Christmas tree.

We will be holding our Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 19th December starting at 6.00 pm. Join us for this special service and stay afterwards for a chat, mulled wine and mince pies.

On Wednesday 23rd December 10 am - 12 noon, we will be making 100 or so Christingles; extra pairs of hands joining the production line would be very welcome and refreshments will be provided.

Our annual 'Come to Bethlehem' and Christingle service will take place starting at 3 pm on Christmas Eve. This service has become a traditional part of the Christmas celebrations in the Collingbournes and Everleigh. Whether you are one or one hundred years old or any age in between, come along and join in the fun! Come dressed as a shepherd, an angel, a wise person, a traveller or inhabitant of Bethlehem, a sheep or even a donkey! Join in to help tell the story of the first Christ-

mas, no previous acting experience or rehearsals necessary, just a sense of fun. This service will also be followed by festive refreshments. On Christmas Day there will be a service of Holy Communion at 11am led by Bishop Andrew.

As you can see, there are a lot of events planned for the Advent and Christmas season, so please make sure to take note of all the dates for the various events and services. It will be wonderful to see 'old' and new faces at all or any of our services during the Christmas Season. At this special time when we think about what pair of socks to get Uncle Bob and whether Auntie Rosalie has used up all the soap that was bought for her last year. Or start to stress about whether the turkey is big enough to feed the family now that more of us can come together, it is important to reflect on the reason why we are so very fortunate to celebrate 'the most wonderful time of the year'. After all Jesus is the reason for the season.

So please do join us, your church family, at the festive services. We would love to see you there and celebrate with you the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What would encourage you to join us for services during 2022? Please have a think and let me or any members of the PCC know. Either chat to one of us after a service or email me:

tishleigh@savernaketeam.com.

The PCC are already beginning to plan fundraising events to take place during 2022. We are aiming to raise funds to help pay for repairs to the clock. In total £5,300 is needed. Collingbourne Ducis Parish Council have granted £1,000 towards these repairs. We are currently applying for other grants. We have also received a generous private donation of £200. If you would like to donate towards these repairs you can donate on St. Andrew's Just Giving page at:

Addresses for the village websites:

CD: **www.collingbourne-ducis.com**
CK: **www.collingbournekingston.org.uk**
Everleigh: **www.everleigh.org**

<https://www.justgiving.com/standrews-collingbourneducis>. Hopefully, by mid-summer we will have raised sufficient funds for the repairs to take place.

As this is the final report of 2021, the PCC and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped out in church during the past year: setting up services, reading a lesson, being a DJ, serving refreshments, arranging flowers, cleaning the church, tidying the churchyard. Your help is invaluable and much appreciated.

Finally, the PCC wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

St. Mary's Collingbourne Kingston

Nigel Worner-Phillips (01264 850070) Churchwarden writes:

Christmas Craft Fair, Saturday 18th December 11.30 am to 2 pm

We have pleasure in announcing that St. Mary's Collingbourne Kingston will be once again holding a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 18th December from 11:30 am to 2 pm which should give everyone a good opportunity to purchase any last minute gifts.



St. Mary's Carol Service - Our Carol Service is on Thursday 23rd December at 6 pm.

Church Opening and Closing - The members of the PCC wish to express their sincere thanks to all those in the village who agreed to be on the church door rota. As everyone is aware there were many months when we were unable to open the church as a result of Covid, but as a result of the easing of the rules and a new rota having been compiled, the church is now open on a daily basis. Also, many thanks to Stephanie Daubney for her help in setting this up.

Remembrance Service - The Remembrance Service was well attended and the PCC wish to express its thanks to those on the flower rota that provided the Poppy Flower Display for the service. In addition, we

thank all those on the flower rota for their displays throughout the year.

Bees - We have had a large expense at the beginning of November when we discovered there was a bees' nest in the roof of the church. Those who regularly attend the church would have noticed there was an issue, but we were uncertain as to where the nest was located. However, Mike Holt kindly investigated and once established we called on a bee expert and a builder as the roof tiles had to be removed in order to isolate the nest. On a happy note, the bees should have by now settled into their new home, and let's hope they will be very happy and not return.

Trees & Overhanging Branches - The overhanging branches have now been cut back at the side of the pavement which should now make it safer for those walking by the A338. In addition, at the beginning of December we have arranged for the trees at the north perimeter side of the churchyard to be cut back due to branches overhanging a number of graves.

Christmas and New Year - St. Mary's PCC wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pantomime answers:

1. Mother Goose.

2. Buttons.

3. Cinderella.

4. Dick Whittington.

5. Prince Charming.

6. I'm not sure so please feel free to email in with your answer.

St Andrew's Church, Collingbourne Ducis

Services in December

Sunday 5th December	Evensong at 6 pm
Sunday 12th December	Holy Communion at 9 am
Sunday 19th December	Candlelit Carol Service at 6 pm
Christmas Eve (Friday)	Come to Bethlehem at 3 pm
Christmas Day (Saturday)	Family Communion at 11 am
Sunday 26th December	Team Service – time & location tbc

Services in January

Sunday 2nd January	Evensong at 6 pm
Sunday 9th January	Holy Communion at 9 am
Sunday 16th January	Family Service at 11 am
Sunday 23rd January	Holy Communion at 11 am
Sunday 30th January	Team Service time & location tbc

St Peter's Church, Everleigh

Saturday 11th December	Carol Service at 5 pm
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St Mary's Church, Collingbourne Kingston

Services in December

Sunday 5th December	Holy Communion at 9 am
Sunday 12th December	No Service
Sunday 19th December	Taize Service at 6 pm
Sunday 23rd December	Carol Service at 6 pm
Sunday 25th December at 9.30am	Holy Communion with Bishop Andrew

Please note, there is no Christmas Eve Midnight Service at either Collingbourne Kingston or Ducis and the nearest Service, should you wish to attend is in Burbage at 11 pm.

Cover Picture: Credit to Simon Drew, Illustrator & Cartoonist